

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, April 10, 2014

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Travel mix up

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'Ow do Aynuk

Black Country comedy legend marks milestone

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What's on

Entertainment and television listings

Starts Page 23



Rescued chapels in wedding venue plan

A GRADE II listed building housing two chapels will be used as a register office, under new plans.

Wedding and civil partnership ceremonies would take place at Lye and Wollescote Cemetery Chapels if proposals are approved. The building, which houses Anglican and Non-conformist chapels, is due to be restored with a £1.1 million lottery grant by the West Midlands Historic Building Trust.

Dudley Council wants to lease the building from April 2015 so it can be used as a register office.

Bosses hope it will help to fill the gap left since the former register office in Stourbridge closed in 2011 with the sale of the Crown Centre as part of the Tesco development.

Wollescote councillor Gaye Partridge said: "The chapels present a rare and unique building which lends itself ideally to a ceremony venue."

History experts say its a rare surviving example of two chapels within a single building.

The site which is owned by Dudley Council was severely at risk due to lack of use when volunteers at the West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust stepped in to save the building.

Easter fun at Merry Hill

FUN Easter activities are on offer at Merry Hill shopping centre from this Saturday until April 25 — including a Muppets Most Wanted treasure hunt every day.

Peppa Pig will be visiting on Monday with shows taking place at Quest near Debenhams on the hour from 11am to 3pm. Free entrance wristbands must be collected from Quest from 9am onwards on the day of the event. Story-telling sessions are on April 22 and 24. For details visit westfield.com/merryhill

RETURN OF THE SPEED CAMERAS

SPEED cameras are back in the Black Country — a year after they were turned off in a move to save money.

Dudley Council has unveiled five new cameras and will pay the £15,000 bill for installation and maintenance. The cameras are positioned in Halesowen, Stourbridge, Gornal Wood and Quarry Bank.

Council chiefs said they were put in place in response to 'long-standing requests' from communities.

One of the new cameras is on a 50mph stretch of the Manor Way dual carriageway in Halesowen, where Tipton motorcyclist Nick Foster died in an accident last June.

Deterrents

John Millar, Dudley Council's director for urban environment, said: "The new units at Thorns Road, Quarry Bank; Manor Way, Halesowen; Coopers Bank Road, Gornal Wood; Oldnall Road, Stourbridge, and Grange Road, Stourbridge are in response to long-standing requests from the community for speeding deterrents.

"The units cost around £3,000 each to install and maintain set against 2014 Department for Transport figures which show the average cost of a serious accident is more than £210,000."

He said West Midlands Police would continue to deal with enforcement.

The cameras were all introduced within the past two weeks.

A year ago 73 of the remaining active cameras were switched off by the West Midlands Safety Partnership.

The decision was made after West Midlands Police

Report by Alex Ross

said it could no longer afford the £1m a year running costs due to budget cuts. Instead, the number of the police's mobile van cameras on the region's roads doubled to four.

Concerns continued to be raised about the speed of drivers in areas such as Manor Way. Members of Halesowen Athletics and Cycling Club voiced worries over the dangers of trying to pull out onto that road.

Inspector Dez Lambert, from Dudley Police, welcomed the new camera and said they used new technology which made them cheaper to run. He said: "We have long been aware of the speed of some motorists coming down Manor Way from the motorway. If the new camera reduces casualties on the road we, of course, welcome it."

Sergeant Martin Hall, of Halesowen North neighbourhood team, regularly runs speed check operations on the road, catching drivers going at speeds of up to 82mph on a 40mph stretch. He said: "We have already noticed the speed camera helping to reduce the speed of cars on the road."

Birmingham City Council is drawing up a trial scheme for 12 fixed cameras.

Black Country gets its own anthem



Deputy Dudley Mayor Councillor Pete Lowe with Steve Edwards, and musicians Rachel Slater, Steve Henley, James Stevens

A SONG celebrating the Black Country has been declared the area's official anthem as the countdown continues to a special day in the region's honour.

Folk band The Empty Can are looking to break into the charts with their charity song I Vow to Thee Black Country.

The song, a version of patriotic classic I Vow to Thee My Country, goes on pre-order sale during May ahead of a May 27 release date. All money raised through sales of the single, which can be purchased for just 99p, will go to Compton Hospice.

The charity has been chosen in ded-

ication to Steve Evans, a former Wolverhampton City Council worker, who died in January aged 52, following a two-year battle with stomach cancer. Steve impressed the nation with his bravery and good humour as he spoke about his illness and its impact on him in several radio interviews.

James Stevens, aged 36, lead singer in the three-piece folk band, said: "Within hours of this going on YouTube last year it crashed the views counter and we think it reached around 250,000 views in total before we took it off."

"We now want to re-launch it as a

single to mark Black Country Day with all proceeds going to Compton Hospice in memory of Steve Evans. If people in the area get behind it we genuinely believe we could get the Black Country in the charts."

Steve Edwards, a factory worker from Brierley Hill, who has more than 17,000 likes on his The only way is Dudley facebook page, has created a video of iconic images of the region to go with the song.

People can email blackcountryday@hotmail.co.uk to join the mailing list to receive email notification when the song is available.

Toddler, 2, dies in a swim pool tragedy

A TODDLER died after being found in a swimming pool at his grandparents' Stourbridge home, an inquest heard.

Two-year-old Ajay Ramesh Shourie was discovered in the pool after going missing at the property on Monday evening, March 31.

The boy, who is from Leicester, was taken to Russells Hall Hospital, but was pronounced dead on arrival.

Accident

At an inquest opening at Smethwick Coroner's Court, coroner's investigator Bonita Poole said the toddler was being looked after by his grandmother when she noticed that he had gone missing.

"She went to try and find him, but he was found in a family pool in the conservatory," said the investigator.

An ambulance was called and despite attempts to revive the small boy, he was pronounced dead at the Dudley hospital at 5.02pm.

Police have said there is nothing suspicious about the boy's death, which has been described as a tragic accident.

Coroner Robin Balmain adjourned the hearing for further investigation to take place. He said: "This is a tragedy and my heart goes out to the family."

Village gets policing post

POLICE officers will be based at parish council offices following the closure of a village station.

West Mercia Police has shut the station in New Street, Hagley as part of plans to save £1.5 million a year by 2016.

A 'community policing post' has now been set up at the parish council offices in Worcester Road. The police base will not be open to the public but the facilities will be used by officers to spend more time in the village.

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Father-of-two leapt from moving car

A FATHER-of-two leapt out of a moving car which then crashed into a house while he was almost twice the drink-drive limit.

Asaf Hussain was seen driving towards traffic in Dudley by patrolling officers on October 17. Wolverhampton Crown Court heard how Hussain, aged 32, leapt out of his car and spat at police. Ms Sati Ruck, prosecuting, said: "Officers

saw a Ford Focus driving around a bus, causing it to brake sharply, and towards oncoming traffic. He has then driven through a red light. The defendant has then pulled up onto a drive and jumped out while it was moving. This has caused the car to crash into the property in Park Head Road causing damage.

"He was restrained by officers and made threats to them and spat

at them. Half a bottle of vodka was found on the passenger seat."

Hussain gave a reading of 63 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath. The limit is 35 microgrammes.

The court heard that Hussain had been convicted in 2007 for drink-driving, fined and given a driving ban.

Mr Martin Fowler, defending,

said: "He has been an industrious law-abiding citizen. He simply fell into old ways."

Hussain, of Malvern Crescent, Holly Hall, pleaded guilty to dangerous driving, driving with excess alcohol and an assault on a police officer. He was given a two year driving, a 40-week prison sentence suspended for two years and told to join the Thinking Skills programme.

Services are saved but Centro to axe 89 jobs

GOVERNMENT cuts were blamed as bosses at the West Midlands transport authority announced 89 jobs would go. Centro is cutting a quarter of its workforce.

Funding it gets from councils is being reduced by £7 million. Councils fund the authority through a levy and it oversees public transport on their behalf but they have had their multi-million pound Government grants slashed.

MP backing the new dog attack laws

NEW laws introducing sentences of up to three years' jail for irresponsible dog owners whose pets attack other dogs, including guide dogs, have been welcomed by a Black Country MP.

It is estimated that 10 guide dogs have been attacked each month, to the great distress of the dogs and their owners.

Liability

New beefed-up legislation has now been passed meaning that if a dog attacks someone, a member of the public or a postman, even if the attack happens on the owner's private property, the owner will still be liable for the attack.

People whose out-of-control pets kill someone can be locked up for 14 years.

Another new element of the law is that if an out-of-control dog attacks another dog, such as a guide dog, the owner can now be sentenced for up to three years in prison.

Warley MP John Spellar said: "I have been happy to campaign for this change in the law which will bring reassurance to guide dog owners. I also hope that the police will use their powers to the full."

The staff cuts are coming because councillors voted to protect services such as Ring and Ride buses, free tram and train travel for pensioners and half-price fares for children.

Tough

Centro chairman Councillor John McNicholas, said: "Balancing the budget has proved extremely difficult but our priority throughout has been to protect passengers as far as possible. Cushioning the effect on frontline services means the impact on our staff will be harder."

"It is a tough situation but one that is a direct result of the unprecedented cuts being imposed on local government."

On top of the £3m cut in operational and staffing costs for 2014/15, a further £4m is being found through 'streamlining' of bus station and infrastructure maintenance, changes to subsidised bus access standards, measures to reduce financing costs and a reduction in the Ring and Ride grant.

The £7m savings this year means Centro will have reduced its operational and staffing costs from £27m in 2010 to £15m in 2014/15.

The organisation had considered scrapping funding for Ring and Ride, a door-to-door service for pensioners and disabled people but its annual grant will instead be cut to £8.5m. The 60p fee for the service was increased to £1 this month.

Passenger fights off pair



The two suspects, right, police are hunting in connection with an attempted robbery

A ROBBERY on a bus was foiled after the targeted passenger punched one of the two offenders in the face before running off.

The two would-be robbers got more than they bargained for in the bungled bus robbery. They were on the number 11A bus, heading from Bearwood, and headed to the top deck where they approached a 26-year-old man who was sat towards the back.

One of the young men demanded the victim's mobile phone several times and began to threaten him, but the victim then got up

and punched one of the men to the face before pushing past them in an attempt to flee. Detective Sergeant Lucy Bird, from West Midlands Police's Birmingham robbery team, is investigating the crime.

She said: "The passenger was, understandably, concerned for his safety and was worried that the two suspects were carrying a weapon. He refused to hand over his phone and when the threats became more menacing he quickly acted to defend himself."

Planners give green light for skate park

A £150,000 skate park for Stourbridge has been given the go-ahead, sparking joy for skateboarders and BMX cycle fans.

Dudley Council approved Unit3sixty's plan for an indoor park in Mill Race Lane this week.

The former disused industrial unit will offer BMX, skateboarding and scooter riding facilities and organisers aim to make it one of the best in the country.

Summer

The proposal is supported by a £40,000 community enterprise fund from the council and was drawn up in response to calls from young people for a new skate park.

The former Ramparts skate park was closed when its home in the basement of the former multi-storey Bell Street car park was demolished to make way for Tesco.

Gavin Pardoe, owner of Unit3sixty, said he hoped building work on the indoor skate park would get under way next month, with the aim of opening this summer.

He said: "We have big aims for the park. We want it to be among the best in the country but we want the users to help us draw up the ideas inside the park."

More help to pay on time

AN extended service has been launched for council tenants to make payments.

Four payment dates are now on offer for people in Dudley to pay by Direct Debit. They can pick from 6, 14, 21 and 28 of the month. Call (01384) 815024 to speak to the housing Direct Debit team.

Housing boss Councillor Steve Waltho said: "We have over 3,000 tenants who are benefiting by using the Direct Debit service. This scheme provides customers with peace of mind as they know that their payments will be paid on time."

Lot to do at Easter

EASTER activities are taking place at museums in Dudley every day from April 12 to 27 at Broadfield House Glass Museum in Kingswinford, Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley and until April 26 at Dudley Museum and Art Gallery. Visit www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do

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Death of popular supervisor is a shock

A MAN died after suffering a suspected cardiac arrest, aged just 29.

Richard Stevenon was discovered unresponsive by his friend Gemma Bayliss after she had left him in her living room to take a phone call. She tried to revive him and he was rushed to hospital with his sister Kerry-Anne but was pronounced dead at Russells Hall Hospital.

Since his death last week, a flood of tributes has come in from friends, family and customers he had served as a supervisor at the Co-op Food Store in Dibdale Road in Dudley, where he worked for 13 years.

A inquest was opened into the death of Mr Stevenon, a former Ellowes Hall Sport College pupil who lived in Park House Gardens, Lower Gornal. The hearing was told he had suffered a suspected cardiac arrest.

Mr Stevenon lived with his mother Tracey Stevenon. She said: "Everybody loved him. He was such a lovely, lovely lad. He always knew how to cheer someone up. He will be missed so badly by us all. We are all in absolute shock."

The inquest at Smethwick was adjourned for further reports.

Sign up for MP uni event

AN MP is hosting an event for universities aiming to attract school pupils to higher education. This is the second Universities Outreach event after more than 300 students and parents attended a similar event last year.

Margot James, MP for Stourbridge, is hosting the event today (Thursday) from 5pm to 7.30pm. It takes place at the Glasshouse College, Wollaston Road, Amblescote, with representatives from Russell Group universities. Visit signup.margotjames.com to register interest or call the constituency office on (01384) 370 574.

New fitness class

FITNESS fans can take part in new weight loss training classes with Metafit sessions on offer at Stourbridge's Crystal Leisure Centre. The half hour class runs every Tuesday at 8.35pm at the Bell Street centre and is suitable for all fitness levels. Call (01384) 812800.

Father jailed after stabbing son 11 times



Jailed — George Adam

A FATHER who 'stabbed his son 11 times, including once in the face, has been jailed for more than six years.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that 50-year-old George Adam grabbed a kitchen knife and repeatedly stabbed his son, Shane, aged 28, on October 1.

Adam, of Stourbridge Road, Halesowen, was babysitting at his sister's house in Dudley when his son turned up and the pair began arguing. Wolverhampton Crown

Court heard that Adam stabbed his son in the cheek, neck, head, ribs, stomach, groin and arm pit.

Mr Hugh O'Brien-Quinn, prosecuting, told the court: "The argument developed into a fight and they were swinging each other around and wrestling in the kitchen.

"Shane pushed him backwards and he fell down and hit his head on the cooker. It was then that he grabbed the knife.

"The defendant then ran at Shane and stabbed him in the face.

Shane fell to the floor and the defendant stabbed him and was going to continue but one of the children in the house bravely ran over and hauled the defendant away."

Mr O'Brien-Quinn added: "He has said he was sorry and that he lost it."

The court was told that Adam's son was unconscious for two days following the attack and spent a week in hospital.

Adam pleaded guilty to wounding with intent to cause GBH.

Mr Darron Whitehead, for Adam, said his client has expressed genuine remorse and had effectively taken an overdose of diazepam that had affected his thinking that night.

Judge John Wait sentenced Adam to six years and eight months in prison. He told him: "Your son had been rude and verbally aggressive and was clearly under the influence of drink. You lost your control. This was a repeated assault and there were serious injuries that were caused."

Retirement village helping elderly and the young too

APPRENTICES have been taken on to work on a new £18 million retirement village starting to take shape on the site of the former Cradley High School.

Midland Heart has started work on the development of 120 homes on land off Slade Road. Work is due to be completed by spring next year.

The developer has taken on eight apprentices who have been able to get hands-on experience to finish their qualifications.

Among them is 18-year-old Ryan Pawney, from Quarry Bank, who is now working on the site as a fully qualified bricklayer after completing his NVQ Level 2 in bricklaying in November. He has been taken on by Loughborough-based William Davis Ltd, the contractor for the scheme.

Holocaust survivor to meet pupils

A HOLOCAUST survivor will tell students his story at an event to educate future generations about the horrors of genocide.

Year nine pupils at Windsor High School and sixth form, Halesowen, will attend the event hosted by the Holocaust Education Trust.

Powerful

They will hear testimony from Rudi Oppenheimer who was 12 when the Nazis took him and his family to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. His parents perished but Rudi and his siblings Paul and Eve survived.

Mr Oppenheimer will take part in a question and answer session at the school, in Richmond Street, on April 28.

History teacher Hannah Moody said: "It is a privilege for us to welcome Rudi Oppenheimer to our school and his testimony will remain a powerful reminder of the horrors so many experienced. We are grateful to the Holocaust Educational Trust for co-ordinating the visit."

Experience

He said: "I am happy with the hands-on experience I was able to gain on site; it meant I was able to finish my training and become fully qualified. The fact that it has also led to a permanent job is brilliant."

The scheme, named Lime Gardens, will provide housing for over 55s for rent and sale, plus health facilities and 24-hour care and support for those who need it.

There will be communal leisure facilities including a shop, restaurant, library, gym and well-being facility, which will form the focal point of the community living there.

Nick Byrne, deputy director of assets at Midland Heart said: "We're very pleased that we have been able to help these young people gain the experience they need. As an organisation we are committed to creating opportunities which make a contribution to tackling youth unemployment."

Mystery object sparks grenade scare



The River Stour Clear Water project volunteers who found the suspicious object while cleaning a brook

VOLUNTEERS have spoken of their shock after discovering what they first feared to be an old grenade in Wollescote.

A road was closed and park cleared for safety but police later confirmed that the possible explosive was instead an old gas canister.

Patrol cars moved to block Wollescote Road at 11am on Sunday, after members of the River Stour Clear Water project group found the object under an old mattress when

clearing rubbish from Ludge Bridge Brook, near Wollescote Park

Upon closer inspection the round device had what appeared to be a metal pin on the top and the alarmed group decided to call 999.

Safety fears prompted officers to clear the children's playground at the park. Motorists were turned back and diverted as police awaited experts to come and inspected the device.

Group member Wayne Haywood, aged 49, from Stourbridge, said: "It

was about the size of a grapefruit with a cap device that was a different metal."

Fellow volunteer Kevin Ward, 59, from Lye, added: "I asked the advice of a friend who had been in the Army and he said get it checked out, so we did.

"We couldn't believe it when we saw all these police had turned up."

Dudley Police later confirmed it was an hydropneumatic suspension part, probably from an Austin 1800 car.

NEWS in brief

Chief social worker visits the borough

ENGLAND'S first chief social worker for adults visited Dudley. Lyn Romeo was in the borough to learn more about how council community, access and dementia social work teams operate.

She also had a chance to talk to social workers.

Ms Romeo said: "I enjoyed my visit to Dudley and have been impressed as to how social workers are working with people to help them make the right choices about their care, support and quality of life."

Get your bake on for contest

DUDLEY will hold its on version of the Great British Bake-Off as part of St George's Day celebrations.

Members of Brierley Hill's Inner Wheel are getting ready to get their bake on for the contest on April 26. Following the success of last year's inaugural Dudley Bake-Off, the women's voluntary group are helping out.

Competitors need to register by emailing brierleyhillbakeoff@dudley.gov.uk and full details will be sent to them.

Special ale to mark anniversary

KINVER Brewery has created a special ale to mark the 40th anniversary of the Stourbridge and Halesowen branch of the Campaign for Real Ale. Life Begins will be on sale at the Stourbridge Beer Festival at Stourbridge Town Hall from today (Thursday) until Saturday. The 17th festival will have over 6,000 pints of real ale to sell. See www.stourbridgecamra.org.uk/beerfest

Foundry worker opens canteen

A FOUNDRY business in Dudley invited a long-serving member of staff to open its new canteen.

Finishing shop manager Adrian Bate has worked at Thomas Dudley in Birmingham New Road for 25 years.

Thomas Dudley has invested more than £9 million in its premises over the last three years.

Parcel pay boost

PARCEL company DPD has agreed an inflation-busting pay deal for its staff over the next three years with a 10.6 per cent rise. The company has hubs in Smethwick and Oldbury where it employs 800.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



SO farewell, the Competition Commission, scrapped this week. Why was there only one?

□□□□□□□□

AS the world digests the massive UN report on climate change, does any part of it mention the thousands of British pensioners and drivers who did not die this winter thanks to the unusually mild conditions? Or does only bad news count?

□□□□□□□□

OUR cat became suddenly nervous about leaving the house at night. Then we found the piles of earth and poo in the yard where the badgers had been digging. Cats, like any other creatures with brains, give badgers a wide berth. Which is why I'm not entirely convinced by the theory that TB can pass from badgers to humans through bite wounds on domestic cats. If a badger manages to bite a cat, it would surely kill it.

□□□□□□□□

SO what is a reasonable length of time to hold an innocent person behind bars? John Craven is a street preacher in Manchester. He was approached by two gay teenagers who asked his views on homosexuality. Mr Craven read them the Bible verses from Revelation about sinners burning in a lake of fire and sulphur, but stressed that "God hates sin but He loves the sinner." he boys complained to a policeman that Mr Craven's words were "insulting" and had caused them "harassment and distress." The copper promptly arrested the preacher and took him to the cells where he was held for 19 hours. Mr Craven has now won £13,000 in compensation under the Human Rights Act. A police spokesman says: "We acknowledge that we did make mistakes and, in particular, kept the claimant in custody for too long." Too long? I repeat, what do the cops these days consider a reasonable length of time to bang up an English citizen whose only offence is to explain his religion to passers-by?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Robber and girlfriend are put behind bars

A TEENAGE girl acted as the getaway driver for her robber boyfriend, leaving her dreams of a career in childcare in ruins.

Chelsea Williams tried to throw away a bag of ammunition when police swooped on her and partner Jordan Collins.

Collins targeted elderly Asian women believing they were likely to have expensive gold jewellery, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. The 20-year-old struck as retired sisters-in-law Sheila Paul and Mohinder Chopra walked on Masters Lane, Blackheath, on July 12.

Mr Oliver Woolhouse, prosecuting, said: "They heard a male voice behind them shout 'give me whatever you have got.' He made a grab for the bag of one of the ladies but missed, whereupon the other started to strike him on the head with her bag. He snatched this from her grasp."

A man gave chase into Church Street and Green Lane where he managed to note down part of the registration number of the Vauxhall Corsa driven by Williams that Collins escaped in.

The bag had £1,500 worth of property inside that was not recovered but police traced the car and arrested both Collins and his girlfriend at his flat in Duncan Edwards Close, Dudley, 12 days later.

by Simon Stone

Officers saw Williams poised to throw a plastic bag out of an upstairs window as they raided the property but she stopped after spotting them. The bag held 28 rounds of live ammunition. No gun was found.

Mr Delroy Henry, defending Collins, who had previous convictions, said: "He could have gone to those who love and care for him if he was desperate for money." Mr Glyn Samuel, representing Williams of The Oval, Dudley, said: "She has lost her good name and wrecked hopes of her dream job."

Collins admitted robbery, attempted robbery and possession of ammunition and was ordered to be detained in a Young Offenders Institution for three years. Williams, 19, received two-and-a-half years behind bars after admitting possessing the ammunition and being convicted by a jury of robbery and attempted robbery.

Wagner's locks are hair to stay



Wagner gets treatment from Dr Nikolaos Zakynthinakis

X FACTOR star Wagner has revealed he has had pioneering treatment paying the way for a hair transplant to cover a bald patch.

The flamboyant Brazilian-born singer is following in the footsteps of his X Factor mentor Louis Walsh, who had a hair transplant which cost £30,000.

Former Pensnett resident Wagner Fiuza-Carrilho, 58, who lives with his 22-year-old partner Lydia Longville and their young son Leon, said his mane of hair had been his crowning glory since he was 30. "In the '60s everybody had long hair, because of The Beatles and the Rolling Stones and the hippies," said Wagner. "Some people grow bald gracefully and accept it, I never wanted to accept it."

The Vinci Hair Clinic in Harley Street, London, has treated him with Acell, a medication made from the bladder of a pig, at £1,100 per session.

Wagner, who found fame on the TV talent show, discussed hair transplants with Louis Walsh when they recorded a celebrity version of Deal or No Deal.

50 more PCSOs to patrol on the streets

PCSO ranks in the West Midlands Police are set to be bolstered as 50 new officers prepare to take to the streets.

The recruits, the majority from the West Midlands, are currently on a seven-week intensive training programme.

Once the programme is complete the new officers will be assigned to local police teams in Sandwell, Birmingham City Centre, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Solihull and Coventry.

This will take the total number of West Midlands PCSOs to more than 700.

West Midlands Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Yvonne Mosquito visited the PCSOs in training.

She said: "It was great to meet such enthusiastic new recruits. We haven't recruited for a long time so it's essential we bring in fresh people with fresh ideas."

"I wish them all well as they continue with their training before joining their colleagues on the streets of the West Midlands."

Last year saw the 10th anniversary of PCSOs' introduction onto the West Midlands streets. Nine of the original 61 recruits are still on the beat today.

Last October bosses revealed that more than 70 people a day were applying for PCSO roles during the recruitment drive.

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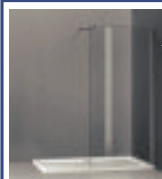
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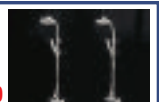


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NEWS
in brief

Lighting change to save £100,000

PARK and ride sites across Sandwell and Birmingham will have a brighter future thanks to new energy-efficient lighting which aims to save £100,000.

Transport Authority Centro will install LED lighting at nine of its free car parks at railway stations, including The Hawthorns and Tame Bridge.

They will use less energy as well as cutting down on the cost of maintenance and replacement. The new lights are estimated to save over £100,000 compared to conventional energy over a decade.

Councillor Roger Horton, Centro's lead member for rail, said: "This new energy efficient lighting will not just help us to cut carbon but will also save money for the taxpayer."

Ska night in aid of patriotic parade

ORGANISERS of the region's biggest St Georges Day parade are preparing for April 20's event in West Bromwich with a music night to raise funds.

Stone Cross St George Association hosts ska band Two-Tonics at Charlemont Bowling Club in West Bromwich tomorrow night. The event at the venue in Charlemont Road starts 7.30pm and tickets cost £5 on the door.

Mark Cowles, from the association, said: "We hope to make this year bigger and better than ever before but running the event costs around £10,000 each year and so we are doing what we can to raise money."

Hospital improves procedure after death

A HOSPITAL says it has improved procedure following the death of an 84-year-old great grandmother.

Olive Jones was taken to City Hospital in Birmingham after suffering a fall at home and was then taken to Sandwell General Hospital two days later for an operation on a fractured elbow.

After less than a week her condition worsened and despite doctors' efforts she died on December 19 in 2012.

After her son Alan raised concerns about staff feeding her at the hospital, an inquest was held at Smethwick Council House last week. Independent pathologist Dr Kenneth Scott said he found no evidence of 'gross malnutrition or gross dehydration'.

He added that Mrs Jones, of Sadlers Walk, Ladywood, died from bronchopneumonia. He said she also had underlying heart disease.

Alison Hughes, ward matron at Sandwell General Hospital, said Mrs Jones did not eat a lot while on the ward, but added it was 'not uncommon' for people in her position to turn down food.

She said since Mrs Jones' death, the hospital had improved procedure. This included nurses being shown how much food patients had eaten before it was cleared away.

Assistant coroner for the Black Country, Angus Smilie concluded Mrs Jones died from natural causes.

Bosses say market will be staying open for business

MARKET traders in Cradley Heath have insisted it is business as usual after their future was thrown into doubt.

Stallholders at Cradley Heath Market say there is 'no intention' of closing after it was revealed its parent company had gone into receivership.

Businesses at the market, which also includes 22 shop units, were sent a letter by administrators KPMG informing them that Landmaster Ltd had gone into receivership. But market manager Peter Cope has had it confirmed by those managing the receivership that the popular market will not be shutting its doors.

Confirmed

He said: "I've had it confirmed from my head office in London, who had it confirmed from the receivers that there's no intention of closing this market whatsoever. As far as we are concerned it is business as usual."

"We are actually taking on new traders. I took on one last week and I'm taking one on next Tuesday who has moved over from West Bromwich market, selling greetings cards."

The market, known as the 'big market', is running offers to attract more traders and to more businesses into the vacant shop units.

Mr Cope said: "We are inviting people to come in and view the shop units, and asking them to make offers as opposed to us telling them 'this is the rent'."

by Adam Grinsell

The market had run a limited-period offer of free stalls to traders, and even though this has now come to an end they are still offering phased payments instead of full rent.

The market is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 8am to 4pm.

A spokesman for KPMG, managing Landmaster Ltd's receivership, said: "This is a large, complex portfolio of properties located across England and businesses are continuing to trade as usual across all of the properties."

"We are working closely and in dialogue with a number of third parties as work continues to stabilise the business and maximise its value."

Meanwhile, a car boot sale or market could soon be operating on Sundays in Oldbury after a planning application was lodged by Sandwell Council's urban regeneration team with its own planners for the Dudley Road car park.

Delight as Daisy-Mae comes home



Baby Daisy-Mae Little is now at home in Pensnett with mother Jennie after she was born three and a half months early

A BABY born three-and-a-half months premature has been taken home by her doting parents and is 'going from strength-to-strength'.

Daisy-Mae Little had to spend more than 13 weeks in hospital following her early arrival.

But her parents Wayne and Jennifer have finally been able to take her home to Pensnett. Daisy-Mae still needs a lot of care but her family said they were delighted she was now at home.

Mr Little said: "Daisy-Mae is settling in really well. We are still finding our feet a little bit at the moment and getting used to all of the changes but she is going from strength-to-strength."

Mr Little said his daughter has an alarm which monitors her breathing. It is connected to a monitor which clicks which every breath she takes.

"Eventually, as Daisy-Mae gets stronger, we will be able to remove the alarm but in this past couple of weeks we would not have been able to function without it," he said.

"Earlier this week we were back up at Russells Hall Hospital for checks to be carried out on Daisy-Mae's eyes. All of the staff were really excited to meet her."

"She has certainly developed a good pair of lungs. She cried a little during the test and she could be heard through the unit. To think when she was born she was unable to breathe for herself and had lung problems."

"It shows how she has improved and is continuing to do so."

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IN MY VIEW

WITH MARK ANDREWS

ACHIM Steiner, the former executive director of the United Nations environment programme, once remarked that the way we treat the bees would 'in part define our collective future in the 21st century'.

It is fair to say PhD student Michael Smith seems to have taken these words to heart, with his in-depth study of honeybees.

However – and feel free to accuse this simple Black Countryman of trivialising the fine research being carried at New York's Cornell University if you believe that to be the case – but I cannot help wondering whether shoving a handful of bees down your underpants was really what Mr Steiner had in mind.

Young Mick, who one suspects probably has a rather strange social life, conducted what must surely be the most exhaustive research to date into the subject of where it hurts most to be stung.

And he wasn't just playing around at it either. He spent 38 days testing 25 different body locations, making sure he got stung at least five times a day.

"We speculated it probably really would hurt to get stung in the testicles," he said, adding, almost with an air of disappointment, "It didn't hurt as much as I expected it to."

That's the trouble with those honeybees, they have to be in the mood. If their heart's not in it, you're just wasting your time.

Michael revealed that getting himself stung in some of the more intimate places required quite a bit of ingenuity and imagination.

"Some locations required the use of a mirror and an erect posture during stinging, eg buttocks," he wrote in his thesis, which is probably something you do not see in too many university essays.

Michael has ruled out extending his work into the field of wasps, or stinging nettles, or jellyfish. Probably just as well, better learn to walk before you can run, and all that.

And the result of all this work is that a bee sting on the nose is much more painful than one around the scrotum. But I think there is also a much more important lesson we can all take from Mr Smith's research. If you are at the moment deliberating over which university course to take, my tip is to stick to economics.

□□□□□

HEADLINE in a tabloid newspaper: 'Tories in food fight.' And for a brief moment I actually thought we might have discovered some interesting politicians.

Surely, the idea of George Osborne showering Phil Hammond with bread rolls and William Hague tipping vol-au-vents over Jeremy Hunt's head would do wonders for the way we think of our honourable members.

Sadly, the story beneath failed to live up to the billing, a dull yarn about school dinners.



Rescuing a trapped construction worker in Bearwood



The team winches a 30st woman out of her flat



Unpredictable – firefighters are sometimes called

Whatever danger they'll deal with it

Trapped worker or cow, a specialist team of firefighters is ready, as **PETER MADELEY** found out

THEIR challenges have included winching a man to safety from the side of a skyscraper to rescuing a builder covered up to his neck in soil at the bottom of an 18ft trench. And they also put out fires.

The West Midlands Fire Service Technical Rescue Unit (TRU) is a specialist team of firefighters deployed on the toughest, high-risk call-outs where disaster can lurk around every corner.

Based at Bickenhill Fire Station, near to Birmingham's NEC, the four eight-man crews support regular crews when their specialised skills and equipment are required. And the Black Country now has its own unit, with a 32-man team stationed in Wednesbury.

Collapsed

The units are charged with tackling the most complex jobs, including sea and river rescues, flooding assistance, rope, confined space and altitude rescue and casualty extrication.

One dramatic scene involved the TRU assisting other emergency services with the rescue of a construction worker who had become trapped under two tons of soil when a trench he was working on collapsed.

When the crew arrived at Barclay Road, Bearwood, the man was covered up to his neck 18ft down in the trench.

Crew Commander Rob Norman, of Blue Watch, says: "One side of the trenches had caved in leaving one of the workers trapped in the bottom of the trench." Only his head was visible.



Nerves of steel – 100ft up while Birmingham's The Cube was being built

"We worked with ambulance crews and other fire crews, using specialist stretcher equipment and a hoist to extricate him from the hole.

"It was a long and complicated job because there was a danger the rest of the trench could collapse at any minute."

Last year the team was called out to a house in the West Midlands to assist an obese woman who was trapped in her bedroom and was struggling to breathe.

"The woman was more than 30 stone and needed to leave the house for urgent hospital treatment," Mr Norman

says. "She was having breathing difficulties but had become housebound and because of her size paramedics were unable to get her to an ambulance. She was basically trapped in an upstairs room."

The crew decided the quickest way to bring her out was to cut away the window frame of the upstairs bedroom and use ropes and a stretcher to winch her down.

In February the unit was called to Handsworth Wood, Birmingham, to help after a large tree blew over in gale

force winds and crushed a car, trapping three passengers, two of whom were seriously injured. Mr Norman says: "It was a delicate and intensive operation because the tree had completely crushed the roof of the vehicle and three people were trapped inside unable to move."

The units were developed in the UK as part of the government's anti-terrorism measures after the 9/11 attacks in the US and London bombings in July 2005.

"We are trained and kitted out to deal with large scale operations," Mr Norman says. "But the principal remains the same whatever situation we are deployed to deal with, be it a traffic collision involving heavy transportation or an animal rescue."

He adds: "If a job requires us to cut through concrete or steel we are equipped to deal with it, and the same applies to heavy lifting or rope rescues."

Since April 2013 the units have added a more conventional task to their remit – tending to fires. "Initially we were firefighters who dealt with almost every incident except fires," Mr Norman says "But that changed last year."

Pressure

The unit took on 32 recruits in preparation for the official opening of the Black Country's first Technical Rescue Unit at Wednesbury Fire Station on April 1. The trained firefighters have been through a rigorous training process

One, Steve Mann, says: "The training is hard and you have to take on a lot of extra skills. Often you have to make decisions quickly and under pressure."

A crew from the TRU was called to perform a training exercise when Birmingham's iconic The Cube was under construction in 2010.

Mr Norman says: "They were asking the questions 'what do we do if someone gets hurt whilst working 100ft in the air?' 'how do we get someone up there to deal with an incident?' Showing people how to deal with potentially difficult situations is part of our job."

POLITICS

WITH DANIEL WAINWRIGHT



DAVID Cameron reckons the Black Country has "every chance of doing well" in its bid for millions of pounds of funding. The wish list includes work by junction 10 of the M6, a revamp of the Grand Theatre and Civic Halls in Wolverhampton, a new railway station for the city and training centres in Halesowen, Dudley and Stourbridge.

The problem the four boroughs of Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton have had for decades is one of perception, of being seen as the poor relation to Birmingham. Talk of merging them into Greater Birmingham just puts people's backs up further.

While Birmingham is a city transformed, Wolverhampton is a field of broken dreams. The Prime Minister seemed to understand that when he visited Birmingham Airport and acknowledged areas like the Black Country had missed out.

People have seen artists' impressions and heard talk of multi-million pound shopping centres, urban villages, canal-side quarters and new railway stations and get fed up when little happens.

Out of a long-awaited £176 million bus, rail and Metro 'interchange' planned for Wolverhampton, the city got a new bus station and a Sainsbury's Local.

The plans are still alive; the begging bowl keeps going out to central government.

Meanwhile Birmingham gets its £600 million refurbishment for New Street and its new £190 million library while the Public Arts Centre in West Bromwich gets shut down. Of course Birmingham deserves the investment. It's the second city.

But isn't it our turn yet?

□□□□□

Former Wolverhampton mayor Malcolm Gwinnett has never really struck me as a party politician. So I doubt his departure from the Liberal Democrats to join Ukip will cause Nick Clegg much more grief than the opinion polls already do.

Although it was a well-timed announcement from the Eurosceptics to bring over a prominent city councillor to their ranks on the same day their leader Nigel Farage went head to head with Mr Clegg in a TV debate.

The Liberal Democrats in Wolverhampton have just three seats, all of them in the same ward, Spring Vale.

Yet the past few years have been a troubled time for them. Another of their councillors, Richard Whitehouse, left them in 2012 following a falling out and then re-joined the following year.

Councillor Gwinnett's former colleagues think he has thrown away everything he once believed in to join a party that stands against it on virtually everything but none of this detracts from his record as a councillor who has always been prepared to speak his mind.



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Coins will not be change for the better

THE Government has decided to change the pound coin. Why? Because they have lost an estimated £45m in fake £1 coins. The new coin will have 12 sides (similar to the old three penny bit) and be made of two metals, the tails side to be decided by the British public.

That's fine you may say, the treasury will save £45m, but every action has an equal and opposite reaction. The reaction is that millions of shopping trolleys will have to be altered, parking meters will have to be changed, vending machines, and so on.

Well, let's go to the next lowest coin, we cannot, the 50p coin is seven sided. I know, we will go to the £2 coin, that is round, and we can use those in trolleys and meters, etc. You can see where this is going.

Councils at first will moan about changing parking meters and charges, then rub their hands together with glee. Parking meters do not give change, so guess what, they will make a fortune. So the Government, mark my words, will make the £2 coin the most popular denomination.

A PARKER, Willenhall

Country festival could go on

I SUPPOSE one could say it was inevitable that Wolvestock had to be cancelled owing to council cutbacks.

The idea that it could be held mostly inside the Civic and Wulfrun Halls did not appeal to many stallholders, country music enthusiasts or line dancers alike. The high entrance fee and the 'no own drinks' rule, the site for campers or the general parking situation would not help.

The cost of previous events at East Park must have been quite enormous with all the staging, enclosures, security and toilets, etc. Then, of course, are the international artists, dance instructors and discos.

Stourport have a free festival, although possibly one could say more for line dancers, none the less a successful event at a fraction of the price because they rely on mostly local artists and discos. Why an event of a similar nature could not be continued in East Park is beyond me.

G DOBSON
Wolverhampton

LETTERS

to the Editor

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

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Pity more of town's heritage is to vanish

DUDLEY Hippodrome — what a pity that this section of heritage cannot be saved and put to good use. Is it really that isolated in position and lacking in 'technical facilities'?

Surely it is easier to locate a venue outside of the maze of one way streets.

Also, technical facilities can be installed to suit the purpose of the venue.

In Halesowen the 1930s library was demolished and now we have a supermarket blocking the view of the Norman church as you approach from Hasbury.

The merchant house in Church Lane survives dwarfed by a modern block built in place of old buildings.

In Old Hill the 1930s council offices were de-

molished — first hit by the wrecking crew was the beautiful central window over the front door.

The new development will contain a fire station sited right on the busy crossroads at the bottom of Barrs Road.

Thankfully the two Haden Hall buildings and park survive.

Dudley is an ancient important town with heritage and the Hippodrome is an interesting and unique item within it.

A think-tank is the last thing that is required to analyse the situation in context with the castle, zoo, landmark church, and 1930s building leading to the ancient market place.

R SLIM
Halesowen

Pupils on found video

I am trying to trace a pupil who attended a Dudley school. I bought a video camera off a market and there was a tape in the camera showing pupils leaving at the end of term.

The pupil I am trying to trace is called Clair Towe who attended Bishop Milner Catholic School, Burton Road, Dudley, and left in 2003. Her mother, Sheila, is mentioned in the film by one of Clair's friends, also Katie and Lindsey are mentioned.

I have spoken to the school and they have looked in the archives of the former pupil and tried to contact her but to no avail. Whether she and her parents have left the area no one knows. I just want to hand the tape (which has been converted to DVD) back to the owners it might be of sentimental value to her.

A JEFFRIES
West Bromwich
07796 496145

Memories of school days

I WAS sorry to see that my old school — Albright Senior School — in Popes Lane, Oldbury, is being demolished.

I was the second pupil to enter the brand new school on the day it opened in 1931. It was a really good school with a first class woodwork room and science lab.

I enjoyed my time there until I left in 1934 to make my way in the wide world.

And now in my 94th year this has brought back many half forgotten memories.

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Easter eggs handed to quiz winners

BLACKHEATH M TWG

THE Annual General Meeting was opened by outgoing Chairman Doreen Armstrong at 10.30am.

Reports were given by treasurer Beryl Hartley, outings supervisor Brenda Ellesmore and Press officer Iris Harris. The outgoing committee members were thanked by Doreen for their work over the past years and the new committee introduced to guild members.

As there was quite a lot of business to be discussed it was arranged that on this occasion there would be no speaker and when the official business was completed the entertainment would be provided by members.

Chris Turner organised an excellent quiz and three winners were presented with Easter eggs.

Beryl Hartley told a lovely story of a little girl who said to her parents that when she was grown up she was going to have a dozen 'babies' because she loved 'babies' better than any dolls and as she didn't care for men, she was never going to get married.

Iris Harris told her story, 'The Gentle Sex and the Gentleman', which showed how easy it was for a calculating woman to pull the wool over the eyes of a vulnerable man who wished to be seen as a 'gentleman'.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday April 23 at 10.30am at the Moose Hall, Beeches Road, Blackheath. Speaker will be John Billingham on 'Images of Worcestershire'.

Family business is now the last one left

Long-standing guild members presented with 10-year awards

THE March meeting confirmed the new committee for the coming year and it was good to welcome aboard a few new faces.

Guild members discovered muscles they never knew they had when Sylvia Brown, retired Hatha yoga teacher, requested some participation during her demonstration.

Despite this, however, the exercise was much enjoyed.

Eleven long-standing members were very pleased to be presented with 10-year service badges from outgoing Honorary President Chris Shuffelebotham and Alma Haffner was delighted to accept this position for the current year.

Discussions for the forthcoming Wednesday

WEDNESBURY TG

Carnival, which takes place in the summer, are already in hand and the newly-appointed committee is already putting forward ideas to make the day a successful one.

There are many talks on various topics arranged for the coming year and interesting trips and outings are also planned.

Anyone considering joining the guild should come along to a meeting and will be assured of an enthusiastic welcome.

Guild meetings are now being held on the second Thursday of each month, at 7pm at the Wesley Centre, Spring Head, Wednesday.

MY TIME OVER FIFTIES

THE March meeting began with the speaker Mr George Hook who spoke about the Birmingham Mother of Pearl industry.

The Mother of Pearl industry grew up in the Hockley area with buttons being made from oyster and seashells. In its heyday there were about 40 companies making the buttons used by the Pearly Kings and Queens.

However the industry was affected in the 1920s with the introduction of plastic and has now declined so that Mr Hook's business, started in 1824 by his family, is the only one left in production.

Now Mr Hook makes jewellery, scarf slides and spoons, all made by hand. Mr Hook's talk was interesting and funny.

My Time Over Fifties meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 2pm in the Ambicote Room at Stourbridge Town Hall. n April 23 Mary Bodfish will talk about the "Singularity of Bodfish".

For more information about meetings and activities phone Graham 01384 393483 or Audrey 01384 864223.

Jill bowls them over for shield

WOLLASTON E TWG

IN the absence of the chairman Jean Latham, vice-chairman Hazel Needham welcomed 56 members to the March meeting which incorporated the AGM.

Apologies were given and secretary Sue Ward read the minutes of the last meeting, which were duly passed. The treasurer gave a favourable report of the accounts, pointing out that no increase in subscription would be necessary. Sue read an annual report on all sections. All officers and committee

members agreed to stand again, and the ladies were thanked for their efforts.

The Bowls Competition Shield was presented to Jill Perry. The Competition Cup went to new member Elizabeth Grove.

There was no speaker or competition. Raffle prizes went to Brenda Adkin and Janet Tomkins.

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No one spotted passport blunder

WHEN Neil Clulow packed for a weekend in Spain his mind was only on celebrating his friend's 50th birthday.

In his rush to get to the airport for the early morning flight, he had accidentally picked up his blonde girlfriend's passport.

The mistake by the 50-year-old from Halesowen, who is bald and has a goatee, was only discovered after he had already arrived in Alicante and had left the airport.

He met up with 14 friends at Birmingham Airport ready for the three-night trip to Benidorm to celebrate pal Carl Pentham's 50th birthday.

After the two-and-three-quarter hour flight, he went through passport control at Alicante Airport without a word from the Spanish authorities.

He only realised the blunder later when he and his pals were comparing passport pictures and he discovered he had used his girlfriend Karen Clift's documents.

Investigation

The father-of-five added: "Me and my mates were joking about our bad passport pictures and they looked at mine and said 'Neil, you're much better looking in this picture than in real life'."

His girlfriend has long blonde hair.

"I can't believe this could happen, especially after all the trouble with the missing Malaysian aircraft," he added.

Mr Clulow, a barber, forked out £70 for his passport to be posted to Spain but had to wait in the hotel for the entire three-day break because it needed to be signed for.

The passport was accidentally sent to Berlin before being redirected to Benidorm, meaning he missed his flight home on March 19.

Monarch Airlines bosses agreed to



Neil Clulow holds the two passports

fly Mr Clulow the next day for free. A spokesman for Monarch said: "Monarch use ground handling agents at all our UK bases to manage check in, boarding and other non-flight related tasks."

"Servisair agents wear name badges and airport identification passes clearly identifying themselves as Servisair."

"We have had confirmation from Servisair that they are carrying out an investigation."

The Monarch spokesman added: "It is our understanding that Mr Clulow made his own arrangements to have his passport couriered to the hotel in Spain. The delay in receiving his pass-



Neil Clulow with his partner Karen Clift

port resulted in him missing his return flight, which was booked on another airline.

"However, the return flight was provided by Monarch, as a gesture of goodwill."

"We would like to clarify that the agents who met Mr Clulow upon his arrival back at Birmingham airport were also Servisair personnel and not from Monarch."

"Due to operational reasons unrelated to this incident, Monarch has recently changed service providers for our ground handling requirements at two UK airports, Birmingham and Luton, and no longer use Servisair at Birmingham Airport."

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Alan, alias Aynuk, likes to tinkle the ivories at his 'dream home' in Netherton



Early days — Alan with John Guest, the second Ayli



Alan pictured with fellow performers at the Hawbush Community Centre



Alan and third Ayli John Plant in their famous roles



Alan Smith and John Plant performing a wartime sketch

Master of mirth has had a bostin' career

AYNUK and Ayli are as synonymous with the Black Country as faggots and paes.

The comic characters, depicted in cartoons in the Express & Star by artist Paul Sellers, were brought to life one evening in a church hall. "They'll say 'he's here again'," says Alan Smith, better known as Aynuk, as he marks the 50th anniversary of the duo's first stage appearance.

Hippodrome

The veteran comic, 76, was inspired after seeing one of the most famous comedy partnerships.

"My mother and father took me as a lad of eight years old to Dudley Hippodrome and I sat laughing at two Americans called Laurel and Hardy and from that evening the spark was lit," he explains.

Born in Park Road, Netherton, Alan had attended Northfield Road School and then got a job at boiler makers Danks doing office work. He moved onto auto electrics firm

MEMORY LANE

by Andy Turton

FH Jennings, also in Netherton, where he met his future wife Mollie. They tied the knot at St John's Church, Kates Hill, and have been married 55 years, moving into their 'dream home' in Arch Hill Street, Netherton, 47 years ago.

The couple had two children, Jayne and Paul, have seven grandchildren and one great grandchild.

After national service, Alan returned to Jennings where he met future comedy partner John Plant. His love of performing never waned and he became producer for a drama group at Cole Street Methodist Church, and was asked to dream up ideas for a variety show.

A music hall artist called Ernie Garner, performing in the Midlands at the turn of the 20th century, had often referred to two Black Country characters, Aynuk and Ayli. The names were derived

from Old Testament prophets Enoch and Eli or Elijah.

Alan's friend Harry Felton joined him to play Ayli. They performed at Cole Street Methodist Church on April 6, 1964, and the show was a success. Alan was soon getting invitations to appear at clubs but Harry did not want to work weekends. Alan approached friend John Guest to take on the role. "I said 'Yow'm a natural. Yow luk saft any road'."

They formed a partnership lasting more than 20 years. To cement the bond further, Alan's daughter Jayne married John's youngest son Ian at St Mary's Church, Kingswinford, watched by Aynuk and Ayli, and are celebrating 30 years of marriage.

Mr Guest had to relinquish the role in the mid-1980s due to ill health and then Alan called upon his old friend John Guest.

John Guest died in June 2006 and John Plant died five months later aged 54. Alan is still performing matinee shows as 'Just Aynuk'. "I love it," he said.



'I love it' — Alan Smith was inspired by Laurel and Hardy

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Choirs rock for charity at town hall concert

IT WAS a starry night for pupils who took to the stage to wow their audience with songs from well known movie soundtracks.

A packed crowd at Dudley Town Hall arrived for the show called A Night at the Oscars as the youngsters had their moment in the spotlight. But it was not just the children as an adult rock choir also shared the stage to raise the roof at the venue.

Packed

Hundreds packed into the town hall, at St James' Road, for the concerts which were raising money for the Acorns Children's Hospice, which has bases at Walsall, Selly Oak and Worcester.

Pupils from Jesson's CE Primary School, in Dudley, were joined by members of Fusion Rock Choir at the culmination of a two day event held on March 13 and 14.

Schools from across Dudley and Sandwell had sung at the town hall as part of a series of concerts.

For the fourth consecutive year now, Jesson's CE Primary School has staged annual musical festival known as Vivo, which is Spanish for alive.

The concerts showcase the talents of the pupils through a range of songs in front of an audience made up of family, friends and other students.

Headteacher Lucy Griffiths said: "Vivo has become a popular annual event, so much so that we have had to extend it over two days."

"All of the children get a wonderful experience of performing on stage and being part of the audience at the town hall."

Older pupils from Jesson's also part with their own choir called Jubilate, with the school's younger pupils singing



Pupils in Jesson's Primary School's Vocalize choir on stage at Dudley Town Hall



Pupils in Jesson's Primary School's Jubilate choir on stage at Dudley Town Hall

ing in the choir named Vocalize.

Both joined Fusion to sing choral versions of rock songs featured in films, such as Eye Of The Tiger from the Rocky soundtrack plus favourites from Disney and James Bond movies.

Together

Mrs Griffiths added: "Vivo has been a wonderful night for Jesson's bring-

ing the community together with the school giving the pupils an exceptional opportunity to perform at such a prestigious venue as the town hall and raise money for Acorn Children's Hospice."

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Louise devotes her life to rescuing the dogs of war

THE military may be preparing to pull out of Afghanistan but one West Midlands woman says her work there is far from complete.

Louise Hastie, a former pupil of Alumwell Business and Enterprise College, Walsall, helps run the Nowzad Dogs charity to re-home animals with soldiers.

It was set up by former Royal Marine Sergeant Pen Farthing in 2007.

While serving in Nowzad in Helmand province in 2006, the 44-year-old broke up an organised dog fight, befriending one of the animals. He then began helping other soldiers get their dogs back home.

The registered charity operates the only official animal shelter in Afghanistan, just outside Kabul, and Miss Hastie manages a clinic for them.

The 41-year-old, from Wolverhampton said they have re-homed some 650 dogs to soldiers from the US and UK to Australia, Canada and Africa, with more going to homes in Afghanistan.

But the charity also works to promote animal welfare and responsible pet ownership in Afghanistan.

Asked what would happen after the draw-down of UK combat troops, set to be completed this year, Miss Hastie said: "It's business as usual for us. It's about promoting animal welfare in Afghanistan, and responsible pet ownership."

Miss Hastie, who spent 10 years with the Staffordshire Regiment and served in Iraq as a reservist in 2004, started re-homing animals when she worked in Iraq. After returning to the UK, she decided to go back as a contractor and while there, rescued a cat and went through a nightmare to get it back to the UK. "I had to perform miracles of Biblical proportion to get this cat out of Iraq, and I didn't want anyone else to have to go through that."



Louise Hastie with some of the rescue puppies in Kabul

Simba the cat later died, but Miss Hastie found herself receiving emails from soldiers in Iraq asking for help to rehome dogs they had befriended while serving there. After offering her help, soon she was spending hours every night helping people get their dogs home, so gave up her job to work

full-time for Nowzad. She now lives and works in Kabul, sharing her home at the charity's clinic with some 20 dogs, as well as around 20 cats.

While many of the dogs are making their way to the UK, there is no sign of her leaving Afghanistan. "I'm here for keeps," she said.

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Hospital parking refund scheme gets the go-ahead

REFUNDS on parking fees will be given to patients whose appointments are delayed at hospitals in Sandwell — including Rowley Regis Hospital.

Health bosses at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospital Trust have now approved a refund scheme, which will come into force in hospitals on Monday. Patients whose appointments are delayed — causing them to incur additional parking fees — can fill out a claims form in a bid to get money back.

by Lee Watton

It comes just weeks after bosses approved increased parking fees at Sandwell, City and Rowley Regis hospitals.

Checked

Regarding the refunds, Brian Childs, of Sandwell patient group Upper GI Blues and regular visitor to the trust's hospital sites, said: "It's what we have been looking for and we are very happy about it."

Claim forms will be completed by a member of staff in the outpatient department. The form will then be taken to the relevant reception desk and checked, and the minimum charge paid by the patient, before they are given a ticket to leave the car park.

If a patient cannot claim at the time of the appointment a retrospective claim can be made by post.

Staff will be given training to ensure claims are made correctly.

Toby Lewis, trust chief executive, said he wanted to make sure staff knew how to handle the claims to avoid patients becoming confused.

Health chiefs first announced the plan last month to prevent users being left out-of-pocket if clinics run late. Last month, it was announced the visitor tariff for every band of charges at Sandwell and City hospital sites will increase by 10p.

Visitors who stay for up to six hours at Rowley Regis Hospital will also see fees jump from £2 to £2.50. The fees for up to 24 hours will stay at £5 at Moor Street.

Concessions for parking include four one-shot tickets for £10 and season tickets priced £9 for three days unlimited use, £18 for seven days unlimited use and £42 for three months unlimited use.



Shop manager Sue Allen at the 12 Baskets charity shop run by the Loaves and Fishes Charity

Furniture shop run by charity

A CHARITY helping people desperate for household goods has opened a shop selling unwanted stock to raise cash.

Christian organisation Loaves 'n' Fishes opened 12 Baskets in the former California pub in Halesowen Street, Blackheath, on Saturday. Inside, the charity is selling donated items including wooden furniture, glassware and clothes.

The organisation has grown since its foundation nine years ago and operates four and a half days a week.

About 15 people volunteer at the charity on each day. It has three vans and a further base in Waterfall Lane in Cradley Heath.

Treasurer Mary Turner said: "We tend to try and provide people with modern household goods."

Although Christian, the charity helps people of all backgrounds who have been referred to them by Dudley or Sandwell councils.

HQ move is helping firm grow

AN ELECTRICAL installations, office fitting and maintenance business, which started in Halesowen two years ago, is winning new contracts following a move to new premises in Blackheath.

Resolute Property Solutions hopes to achieve target turnover of £1.5 million this year.

Contracts director Robert Goulding said: "We achieved a turnover of £62,000 in our first year and grew that to £270,000."

Resolute was started in February 2012 by Mr Goulding, Stuart Farnell, the managing director, and Alan Shiner, the company's electrical foreman.

Mr Shiner said the business had in November moved from its former home in Stanmore Grove to a unit on the Long Lane Industrial Estate in Blackheath, which has an office and workshop.

Trust achieve patient target

A HOSPITAL trust achieved its target of seeing emergency patients within four hours last month following a drop in February.

A total of 95.09 per cent of patients were seen within the four-hour limit in March, Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust board was told.

The trust run Sandwell, City and Rowley Regis Hospitals.

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T. Hadley & Co was founded in 1895 by Thomas Hadley, then passed to his grandson Les Hadley in the late 1940's. The company was purchased by local funeral director Trevor Hickton in 1987 after a long standing professional relationship between Les and Trevor.

After being located in New John Street, Blackheath since the early 1900's, the office was relocated to more prominent position in Blackheath High Street in 2010.

Melanie Unwin Dip.FD was given the position of Branch manager and oversees the day to day running of the office as well as looking after the families on the day of the funeral, she is assisted by Funeral Administrator Angela on a daily basis.

As a funeral directors we offer a wide selection of funeral services throughout Blackheath, Rowley Regis, Hurst Green, Sandwell, Dudley and all surrounding areas. You can reach us 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and we will always assist you with your funeral service needs.

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Brave Kelly, 23, is fit to fight cancer and help others

CANCER sufferer Kelly Mullings has decided to fight her illness with a seven-hour sponsored fitness day for charity.

At the start of this year the 23-year-old from Nagersfield Road, Brierley Hill, was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma and was told she would have to undergo chemotherapy treatment until July.

She said: "I had a lump that was just above my collar bone for some time and I eventually went to the doctor to have it checked out and after tests they came back with a diagnosis of Hodgkin's lymphoma.

"I took the news quite well but my mother Liz found it really hard to come to terms with.

"I have just kept positive about it.

There is no point constantly worrying."

The diagnosis meant she had to give up her studies at Birmingham University where she was training to be a PE teacher and she now has to have treatments at Russell Hall Hospital in Dudley. To show her support for the charity she and 29 of her close friends and family are holding the Tri-ing for Cancer sponsored triathlon at the Crystal Leisure Centre in Bell Street on April 27.

People can donate to the event by collecting a donation form at the leisure centre.

They can also donate online by visiting www.justgiving.com/Tri-ingForCancer or texting TRI173 followed by an amount to 70070.



Kelly Mullings, aged 23, and her mother Liz Mullings, 51, look forward to the Tri-ing event for a

'Best of the best' praise for teachers

STAFF and Students at a school named as one of the best in the country have another reason to celebrate after receiving a glowing report from Ofsted inspectors.

St Hubert's Catholic Primary School in Oldbury has been rated as 'outstanding' by members of the Government's school inspectorate following an inspection last month.

A total of 19 lessons were observed at the school on the Wolverhampton Road and a meeting was held with staff and parents.

Inspectors also received 205 responses from pupils after a questionnaire was handed out to rate the school.

The report said: "This school insists on the very highest standards of behaviour and achievement. Pupils are exceptionally well-prepared in every way for their future lives."

"Teachers know what each pupil is capable of achieving in every subject and work tirelessly to ensure they do. Pupils say their teachers are 'the best of the best'.

Collision that killed father was unavoidable

A FATHER was killed when he stepped out in front of a car on a dual carriageway as he walked to work, an inquest heard.

The coroner was told the driver could not have avoided Christopher Clarke, 53, as he walked 'briskly' into Pedmore Road, near Merry Hill, just before 7am last April 26.

The HM Revenue and Customs officer was walking on a route he had taken for around 13 years when crossing the road near its junction with Hurst Lane.

At an inquest at Smethwick Council House, a police report had concluded that 'the cause of the collision appears to be pedestrian error'.

React

Pc Steven Jubb said that there was no way driver Luke Williams could have avoided Mr Clarke, of Lantern Road, Netherton.

Investigating officers concluded that it would have taken Mr Clarke 1.36 seconds to walk from the central reservation to the point in the outside lane where he was hit, but for Mr Williams to react and his car to decelerate would have taken between 2.8 and 3.4 seconds.

Pc Jubb said: "If the driver perceived the pedestrian as a hazard to him when he started to cross into his lane, the accident was unavoidable."

Welder Mr Williams told the hearing he was driving to work in his blue Fiat Punto when he first saw Mr Clarke crossing the opposite carriageway before reaching the central reservation.

Mr Williams said: "It wasn't until I was level with

by Adam Grinsell

him that he stepped out. I didn't see his face for any indication he was looking, or that he was going to step out."

Asked by Senior Black Country Coroner Robin Balmain if he had any time to do anything, Mr Williams said: "No, it was just milliseconds."

A passing cyclist, Antony Bate, also gave evidence at the inquest.

He said of the incident: "He just seemed to have waited and then all of a sudden stepped out when the cars were getting extremely close.

"I thought it was going to be a bit tight."

Recording a verdict of death due to a road traffic collision, Mr Balmain said: "It's likely he didn't look before stepping out into the road and the oncoming driver didn't anticipate the danger."

Father-of-two Mr Clarke's family, including widow Dorretta, daughter Rebecca and son David, have since campaigned for a crossing to be installed at the scene of the accident.

Hospital visit also marathon practice

THE father of a brave Tipton toddler who inspired a world-wide search for a bone marrow match, will be lining up for this Sunday's London Marathon in a bid to raise money for the charity which helped his son survive.

Guarav Bains, of Alexandra Road, was given a life-saving stem cell transplant in December at Birmingham Children's Hospital. Now the brave two-year-old, who was discharged earlier this year, will be cheering on his dad Sunny.

Mr Bains said: "When my legs are giving way and I feel like giving up, I'm going to think of Guarav and he'll push me through. He's been through so much, compared to him this should be a walk in the park."

Two year-old Guarav was diagnosed with rare blood disorder Monosomy 7 Syndrome in June 2013.

Sunny, who has already raised £8,000, had been in training for the Londone vent by running the 10 mile route from his home to visit his son in hospital.

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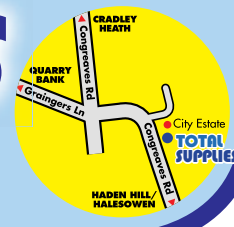


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Website details healthy options

A new campaign to provide people with advice on healthy eating and exercise has been launched by Dudley Council at www.lets-get.com and it aims to give people the chance to create their own healthy living plan.

It is hoped the site will help to promote the wide range of activities that are on offer in the borough and a guide to healthier eating and drinking.

The site features recipes for home cooking as well as details of local restaurants that serve healthy options.

Councillor Stuart Turner, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "I would encourage everyone to get involved with the 'Let's Get' campaign by getting out there and helping us to build a fitter and happier Dudley borough."

Very costly cabbage shocks shopper Jean



Shocked Jean with the£53.55 cabbage that should have cost 30p

DUDLEY pensioner Jean Hudson had a shock when she found she had been charged £50 for a small cabbage.

The 61-year-old from Sedgley had been doing her weekly shop with husband Graham at Asda Tipton in Gospel Oak.

She said: "We were at the checkout and we went to pay and my husband said that the bill was a little steep. It's not unusual for us to spend a little more if there is a deal on.

"We had bought extra items including biscuits and a few items for the Tipton Food bank and coffee for my son, so I thought nothing of it but my husband kept grumbling about the amount."

She had a nagging feeling and checked her receipt and found that instead of paying 30p for the small cabbage, she had paid £53.55.

An Asda spokesperson said: "A system glitch meant that the cabbage was scanned at the wrong price.

"We're sorry for any inconvenience caused and we'll ensure this doesn't happen again."

Ale Tairsters raise a glass to 'Oggy'

A FOUNDER member of the Black Country Ale Tairsters has died days after discovering he was suffering from cancer. Joe Hill died at Sandwell General Hospital on March 21 after he went to see his doctor about poor vision.

The 83-year-old from West Bromwich helped found the group in 1984 with his son Peter and close friend John Drew, starting them on an ambitious challenge of drinking a pint of ale in every pub in Great Britain and raising thousands of pounds for charity on their travels. They visited 17,500 pubs in all.

Peter said: "On March 19 we were told the news that much of the lower half of his body was affected by cancer and he died a couple of days later. It came as a shock to us all. My dad was a real character."

'Oggy,' as he was known, was also a keen motorcyclist who helped found the Moonshiner's Motorcycle Club.

Skills gap is at top of the agenda for new president

SORTING out the skills gap is at the top of the agenda for the new president of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce.

Sikh businessman and musician Ninder Johal, who began his two-year term of office at the start of this month, will also be working to boost exports from Black Country businesses and improve the region's transport system.

"I will be focussing on making sure the Black Country is a lot more ambitious," added the 51-year-old father-of-two from Bearwood.

"I would like to make sure that our schools, colleges and universities are working from the same hymn sheet on sorting out the skills problem. I also think we need a common agenda for transport issues in the Black Country. The whole Black Country needs to be talking to other West Midlands communities to make sure we have a proper joined up transport system."

He said that for the Black Country to prosper it needed to be united.

"My first priority is to ensure that all the major stakeholders in the Black Country economy, including the chamber, are going in the

same direction and working for a common purpose. The chamber needs to work even closer with the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership and the councils, who have a very challenging future in front of them. It needs to ensure the message goes out to businesses that they have to create wealth and jobs."

Mr Johal said the chamber was looking at how manufacturers could be encouraged to export more. Mr Johal is managing director of Wednesbury companies Nachural Records and Nachural Corporate Communications. He also plays tabla in bhangra band Achanak.

Huge interest in police jobs

ALMOST 20,000 people have expressed an interest in 450 new police officer jobs on offer in the West Midlands.

The new roles will bring an end to a five year recruitment freeze at the force.

More than 10,000 people expressed an interest in the jobs within the first four days of applications opening, with this figure now doubling to almost 20,000 since February.

The official application process for posts will start later this month.

It is believed around 75 per cent of those who have expressed an interest are under the age of 30, with 70 per cent living in the West Midlands.

Successful applicants will have a starting salary of £21,999.

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Apprenticeship and Careers Fair Showcases Local Vacancies and Opportunities MP ORGANISES SECOND FAIR TO DELIVER LOCAL APPRENTICESHIP BOOST

by James Morris MP

The 2nd Halesowen and Rowley Regis Apprenticeship & Skills Fair promises to be even more successful than last year's event, with a wide range of vacancies and traineeships available.

The Apprenticeship Fair will take place on Tuesday 15th April at St Michael's CE High School on the Rowley Learning Campus.

Apprenticeships offer a valuable alternative



to going to university and are a fantastic chance to gain real experience and skills whilst also being paid.

Employers get highly-motivated workers, who are learning on the job at the same time as gaining valuable training relevant to their company.

Over the past year, I have trained my first apprentice - Paige from Rowley - and so know first-hand the benefits that a good apprentice can bring.

Apprenticeships Deliver for local businesses

Every time a firm in Halesowen and Rowley Regis hires an apprentice, their bottom line gets an average boost of £2,207, after wage and training costs are deducted

A total benefit of £2.3m locally last year

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£1,500 (per apprentice) "16-24 Apprenticeship Grant for Employers" for businesses who haven't already taken on an apprentice in the past year

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"Raising young people's expectations about their future prospects, and subsequently their achievements, means a brighter future for them and good business sense for us."

Stewart Towe CBE, Managing Director of Hadley Group and Chairman of the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership

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Talented Susan is every inch the diva

Susan Boyle, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

IF she was nervous you would not have known it. Looking every inch the diva, Susan Boyle just came out on stage and did what she does best, belt out those memorable songs in that commanding voice. At the Symphony Hall — the perfect venue for her — on her first UK live tour, she brought the audience to their feet even before the first half had finished.

She has come a long way from the Britain's Got Talent stage in 2009 and, as the spotlight fell on her at the start of the show, she re-enacted the moment when she introduced herself to the judges and even had a gentle dig at them, although she did say how grateful she was to the panel.

The 52-year-old, backed by an orchestra and with two backing singers who seemed to dwarf her, interspersed the show with her unique brand of

banter. She also introduced Lance Ellington, singer from TV's Strictly Come Dancing, who sang a couple of duets with her.

There were a few small jitters but her rendition of You Raise Me Up, backed by the Birmingham Community Gospel Choir, was quite breathtaking and she ended, of course, with the now legendary I Dreamed A Dream.

SUE ATTWATER

The Manics preach to converted

Manic Street Preachers, Wolverhampton Civic Hall
WELSH rockers Manic Street Preachers have a formidable back catalogue and much of it got an airing in an hour and three-quarters gig for their faithful fans at a packed Civic Hall.

Singer James Dean Bradfield praised the Civic as one of the great rock venues where 'every gig feels like a Saturday night.' At his side was one of rock's coolest bassists, Nicky Wire, the one-time dress-wearing rocker in suit and tie.

It takes a brave band to perform in front of images of their younger selves but the Manics did as they paid tribute to their 'lost' member Richey Edwards, who disappeared in 1995.

Opening with La Tristesse Durerre, they seldom let the tempo drop but Bradfield was at his passionate best for This Sullen Welsh Heart during an acoustic interlude. Other highlights included Everything Must Go, You Love Us and last year's hit Show Me The Wonder, whilst Futurology hinted at a fine new album to come.

LEON BURAKOWSKI

Reviews



High kicking action in West Side Story at Birmingham

West Side Story is finger clickin' good

West Side Story, New Alexandra Theatre
FROM the first finger click to the final fatal gunshot, Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim's West Side Story still packs a powerful punch.

The street language may be a little dated, daddy, but this musical relocation of Romeo and Juliet, from feuding families of medieval Italy to gang wars in 1950s New York, hasn't lost any passion in this vibrant revival.

Director Joey McKneely has recreated the pioneering choreography of Jerome Robbins — it inspired those Young Generation types in the 60s — filling the stage with dynamism thanks to a tireless cast of 30.

The songs, from the two I Feel Pretty to the moving Somewhere, were given full justice by the powerful voices of Louis Maskell as Tony and operatic Charlotte Baptie as Maria, understudy for indisposed Katie Hall.

The famous America routine, featuring thrilling Djalanga Scott as feisty Puerto Rican Anita, certainly sizzled. West Side Story continues at Birmingham until April 19.

LB

No regret on hearing this voice

Flossie Malavialle, The Woodman Folk Club, Kingswinford

IF there is one thing you can say about the Woodman Folk Club it's that you certainly get your money's worth with a support act opening each half before the main attraction Flossie Malavialle.

Although a British citizen Malavialle hails originally from Nimes in France. Her voice when singing in her mother language takes on a whole different persona. There is something magical, evocative and emotional when you hear a tune such as La Vie en Rose sung in its original form. Malavialle's voice has much more depth and vigour when she sings in French.

She also treated the audience to On The Road Again, I Know You By Heart — made famous by Eva Cassidy — and original version of If You Go Away, Ne Me Quitte Pas written by Belgian Jacques Brel. Malavialle went out with Wonderful World and Edith Piaf's signature tune Non, Je ne regrette rien.

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Right in the middle of something important

Not North, nor South but the Midlands has made Britain great, says Robert Shore in his book

ACCORDING to Voltaire, as author Robert Shore points out, there's 'froth at the top, dregs at the bottom, but the middle - excellent'.

So begins Shore's glorification of the Midlands in his book **Bang in the Middle (The Friday Project, paperback, £8.99)**, the region described as the most under-rated on earth.

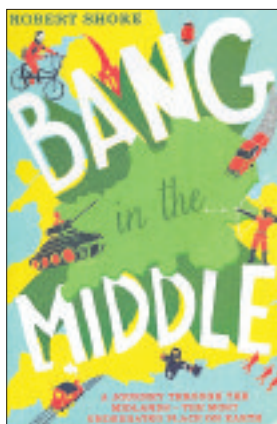
Born in Mansfield, Shore lives in London now but his journey across the central region, with the help of friends and family, seeks to laud the Midlands for its unheralded achievements.

Travelling from his home town, through Nottinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Warwickshire, the Potteries and Derbyshire, Shore argues that the general consensus of the Midlands is one of nothingness, simply a buffer between the north-south divide. He aims to eradicate such thoughts and ends with a list of the top 50 things to come out of the area.

The Midlands, he stresses, is the home to great thinkers and pioneers (Darwin, Johnson, Newton), of writers (Shakespeare, Bennett, Lawrence), of political leaders (even Margaret Thatcher was a Midlander) and of classical composers (Elgar). Some of the great rock bands hail from the West Midlands. Why, even the Olympic Games and 'Peeping Tom' owe their very existence to this region. And, of course, there's the legend of Robin Hood.

The Staffordshire Hoard is mentioned as a significant milestone in the history of the Kingdom of Mercia, the precursor to the modern day Midlands. And, how many people would have heard of Creswell Crags, home to the Sistine Chapel of the Ice Age?

I am personally grateful to Shore for



Lauding region's achievements

pointing out that Chesterfield is indeed in the Midlands.

Although Shore does seem to over-elaborate at times, there are some funny moments, most notably with his examples of Mansfield dialect, for instance: 'Mek it goo backuhs', for put the car into reverse.

MARK SHIPP

Great as Birmingham writer JRR Tolkien's imagination was, he drew on source material from ages past for The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit. Tolkien studied and translated the epic sagas of northern Europe. These tales of magic, treachery, and quests, populated by warriors, trolls and dragons, forged his vision of Middle Earth.

Penguin Classics has published five of these fables in colourful paperback, £6.99 each. These include the poetic Icelandic **The Elder Edda**, and Anglo-Saxon horror story **Beowulf**. Also **Sir Gawain and the Green Knight**,



Penguin's new edition of Beowulf

The Saga of the Volsungs, and The Wanderer: Elegies, Epics, Riddles.

Recent examples of Russian imperialism may reflect a country ill at ease with itself rather than a confident power flexing its muscles, if one believes the bleak picture of the Russian Federation painted by Oliver Bullough in his fascinating, depressing, exploration of modern Russia and its recent past.

The Last Man in Russia (Penguin, paperback, £9.99) sees Bullough criss-crossing the frozen north, braving mosquitoes and stubborn officialdom, as he delves into the story of dissident Orthodox priest Father Dmitry Dudko, who foresaw a Russia drowning in vodka, its citizens unable to trust each other after decades of Soviet control.

Despite his depiction of past misery and an aimless present, I would not be against the power of Russian resilience, fortitude and pride. **LB**

Saucy Kylie is back in the disco

Leon Burakowski looks at new album releases, including Kylie and Elbow

BRIGHT and bouncy and a little bit saucy, Aussie sex thimble Kylie follows the simple philosophy of 'if it ain't broke don't fix it' on new album Kiss Me Once (Parlophone).

Ambitions look no further than the dancefloor, and there's nothing wrong with that. Opener Into The Blue marks the return of gold lame hotpants Kylie and man-of-the-moment Pharrell Williams lends a hand by writing and producing I Was Gonna Cancel.

Three songs have sex in the title — Sexy Love, Les Sex (don't even go there) and the dubstepped Sexercise—but somehow she always stays perky rather than raunchy.

The weakest track is Beautiful, a duet with Enrique Iglesias, on which heavily treated vocals make them sound like lovesick Daleks.

The title track will appeal to long time fans of Miss Minogue as it is reminiscent of the kind of pop she made not long after Charlene left her spandex in Ramsay Street.

Kylie brings her Kiss Me Once Tour to the NIA Birmingham on October 7. gorgeously textured and lyrically eloquent, **The Take Off and Landing of Everything (Fiction)** is Elbow's sixth album. Ramsbottom's finest are known for their anthems but Guy Garvey tends more towards the introspective here.

Having written that, the slow burning, majestically melodic New York Morning is destined to be considered one of the band's classics. But perhaps the album's finest moment is the mel-



Kylie has got her focus on the dancefloor on Kiss Me Once

ancholy, ruminative My Sad Captains with its haunting use of brass.

Besppectacled Liverpool-based 23-year-old from the Potteries **Dan Croll** makes an impressive debut with his sparkling electronic sounds on **Sweet Disarray** (Deram).

His bright techno-pop is exemplified by the addictive From Nowhere and other hook-laden gems on Sweet Disarrays include as Thinkin' Aboutchu and Can You Hear Me. Always Like This and the Feist-like Home reveal a singer/songwriter also comfortable with guitar and percussion.

Too often dismissed in the pigeon-hole marked 'emo', **May Death Never Stop You** (Warner Bros) looks

back at the 12-year career of the New Jersey band **My Chemical Romance** who split acrimoniously a year ago. The hits package includes new track Fake You Death, certainly strong enough to open the album, plus extras depending on the version you get.

It reveals a band that deserved to break out of their cultish following but perhaps never could because of the grim sense of humour that ensured loyalty of the fans but others just didn't get. The expletives also limited radio play. MCR frequently rock out with bratish punk energy. Highlights include Na Na Na, Teenagers and call to arms Welcome To The Black Parade.





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tras. Texts cost £1.50 per mes-
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LADY 69 yr old seeks caring genuine man
for friendship maybe more. **Text Only**
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EMMIE 50, attractive brunette, 5ft 3ins,
OHAC, likes country walks, music,
reading, seeks genuine, friendly,
professional male with GSOH for
friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500**
3955 Box No: 411281

SARAH, married lady seeks discreet no
strings fun with gent. **ACA. Tel No: 0905**
002 1949 Box 408291

RETIRE happy, caring, attractive female,
likes gardening, travel, animals, comedy,
seeks tall, funny, kind chap, Shropshire.
0906 500 3955 Box No: 411459

RITA naughty 40's petite pretty female
looking for that special man in my life, any
age, to get to know and see what
happens, you only live once remember!
0906 500 3955 Box No: 410959

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings
discreet meetings with male any age or
location. **Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box**
366019

SUE 34, likes most things in life, even
football! Looking for my Mr Wonderful
thought I would give this a try. Come on
what do we have to lose, call me. **0906**
500 3955 Box No: 410765

CAROL slim attractive blonde, sporty,
easy going, broadminded looking for
likeminded male with plenty of va vooom,
35-45. **0906 500 3955 Box No: 409717**

NINA, black beauty, looking for discreet
adult times with man any age. **Tel: 0905**
002 1957 Box 409091

SUSAN 64, lively, seeking male for
friendship, maybe more. **0906 500 3955**
Box No: 411329

SUE 38, attractive broadminded attentive,
enjoys meals in/out etc, not necessarily
looking for Mr Right as Mr Wrong or even
Mr Right now could be fun! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410449**

SAM, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves
dressing up and married, seeks discreet
man for casual meetings. Can travel
anywhere. **ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1961**
Box 408297

ANGIE attractive slim blonde just looking
for a lovely spontaneous guy who like me
just wants good company and a nice
relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box**
No: 410641

KATHERINE 35yr old outgoing single
female looking to enjoy dates with similar
male also looking for fun times in or out.
Age, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500**
3955 Box No: 410565

PAULINE attractive divorced female with
no ties, employed with my own home, likes
nights in/out, lots of tlc to give to the right
person, call me for a chat, maybe more.
Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411039

JEN attractive sensual petite blonde with
OHAC seeks confident fit professional
male to enjoy and share good times, if
that's you pls get in touch. **Tel No: 0906**
500 3955 Box No: 410949

ARE you dark or bald, with hairy chest,
well built, educated, verbal, articulate dom
or sub, broadminded and ready to be put
in your place? Curious to find out more?
Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:**
410637

29YR old black beautiful busty tall loving
very sensual lady, likes football, making
friends, seeking genuine white male for
enjoyable loving relationship. Pls no time
wasters. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:**
410577

YOUNG early 40's female, GSOH, kind,
caring, considerate, seeks male for
friendship, possible romance. **Tel No:**
0906 500 3955 Box No: 410847

CAROL 38 attractive romantic not looking
for fairy tales just happy endings, seeking
lovely male to put the sparkle back into my
life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:**
410721

CLAIRE voluptuous tall feminine attractive
lady who loves good company, fine
wine/food, travel, WLTm tall professional
for romance dates and hopeful ltr. **Tel No:**
0906 500 3955 Box No: 410627

LORRAINE 5ft 9ins, slim, 57, nurse,
looking for someone to look after me. **Tel**
No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410543

MICHELLE 37, looking for laughter fun
and romance with the right guy, if you
could be him and have nothing to loose
call me for a chat. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955**
Box No: 410415

TAYLOR 21 black beautiful classy
intelligent, loves to have lots of fun and
enjoy life to the full, seeking mature guy to
make me happy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955**
Box No: 409911

WENDY 50, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, likes
music, meals out, seeks white male, 45-55
with similar interests and GSOH for
friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500**
3955 Box No: 410499

73YR old Hereford lady, GSOH, young at
heart, many interests, seeks caring,
genuine gent of similar age for friendship,
maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box**
No: 410331

NICKY bubbly curvy fun blonde, varied
interests, enjoys meals out, holidays,
seeking N/S male with GSOH for possible
ltr. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500**
3955 Box No: 410479

KAREN 32 a hardworking petite blonde,
enjoys nights out, music, etc, WLTm for
more than just friendship with similar
chilled, kind, easy going guy. **Tel No: 0906**
500 3955 Box No: 410461

LIZ 5ft 7ins, attractive, outgoing, likes
walks, dogs, cooking, seeks male for fun
and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955**
Box No: 410395

ZOE 25 long haired sensual female, very
naughty, broadminded and open, looking
for similar fun guy for uncomplicated adult
meets. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:**
409719

BABS 27yrs slender with dark haired
passionate Italian who loves to dance, eat
out, looking for nice n/s male to spend
quality adult time with. **Tel No: 0906 500**
3955 Box No: 407943

JANE attractive, feminine open-minded
mature female genuinely looking for adult
fun. No time wasters please. **Tel No: 0906**
500 3955 Box No: 409715

JILL 50, attractive, 5ft, blonde, own home,
no ties, likes films, reading, travel, music,
good social circle, seeking that someone
special. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:**
410105

ATTRACTIVE professional lady, 56,
enjoys country walks, meals out, seeks
professional gent with GSOH to enjoy the
good things in life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955**
Box No: 409895

ELAINE attractive 39yr old blonde single
mum seeking respectful male/dad with
similar interests for adult friendship,
hopefully leading to love. Looks
unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box**
No: 410117

DONNA 27yrs blue eyed blonde with cute
dimpled smile, loves socialising but
looking for that special someone with
GSOH to cuddle up with, enjoy fun/good
times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:**
409733

ABI creative free spirited lady enjoys
drama, photography, music, WLTm well-
spoken patient, independent
non-judgmental man. **Tel No: 0906 500**
3955 Box No: 409723

MARGARET OHAC, professional,
sincere, adventurous, loving, kind, solvent
lady who enjoys most things WLTm
male with similar refined tastes. **Tel No:**
0906 500 3955 Box No: 407925

ATTRACTIVE 49yr old divorced lady,
looking for honest, reliable man for LTR,
49-60. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:**
409955

ABBA girl blonde lookalike, size 16,
attractive, bubbly, OHAC, seeking solvent,
refined, handsome guy with full head of
hair, 5ft 9ins plus, professional and
courteous. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box**
No: 409151

NEETA Black beauty, classy, intelligent
21yrs, loves to enjoy life, have lots of fun
and be spoilt, give me a call. Any age,
looks and status. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955**
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Hi I'm Jo, first timer, newly divorced perfect
size 10, blonde, attractive, tactile and
looking to fall in love again. Age
unimportant, dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906**
500 3955 Box No: 409089

SUSIE 32yr old nurse who likes cosy
nights in with a good bottle of wine and
spending quality times with great
company, if you feel the same pls get in
touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:**
408877

BUBBLY 60 plus lady, slim, fair hair, comfy
in jeans and leather jacket, seeks similar
male for friendship etc. **Tel No: 0906 500**
3955 Box No: 408859

JOANNA 34, in need of tlc, wining, dining
being treated like the princess I am,
looking for sugar daddy, that someone
special to love me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955**
Box No: 408869

MARIA gorgeous outgoing bbw 27, good
fun, caring, romantic, looking for that
special someone to share life with. **Tel No:**
0906 500 3955 Box No: 408733

KIM attractive single lady new to area
looking for meet new friends and maybe
a new love interest. I have many hobbies
and am interesting to know, pls call me.
Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408489

TAYLOR attractive very busty curvy black
female looking for fun times with open-
minded male who is also looking for fun.
Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408311

BETHANY 25yr old blonde, slim size 10
with great personality, looking for nice guy
to share my life with, single dad welcome.
Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408253

KIRSTY blonde blue eyed size 12 nurse,
enjoys cosy nights, driving, holidays,
socialising, WLTm broadminded male for
adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:**
409259

KATH blonde independent female,
employed with OHAC looking for fun and
laughter with likeminded nice easy going
male, any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955**
Box No: 407955

TRACY slim dark haired beauty, petite,
hardworking career, enjoys dancing,
nights out, WLTm loving male who can
make me laugh for an adult relationship.
Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409419

SHARON very attractive British black lady,
sexy size 6 looking for white male to fall in
love with. Beautiful people can be lonely.
Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:
409263

MID naughty flirtie female looking fun,
thrills and disreets meets, give me a call,
you won't be disappointed. Any age with
own accommodation. **Tel No: 0906 500**
3955 Box No: 409109

ANITA very attractive black female,
seeking mature white/Asian man to enjoy
uncomplicated relationship with no ties.
Any age, pls contact me, I'm very lonely.
Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408505

Hi I'm Pam, cuddly, attractive, self-
sufficient, employed, looking for similar
young looking, sincere male for hopeful ltr.
Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407933

FEMALE many interests, seeks male, 40-
55 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box**
No: 408537

28YR old female, seeking male with
GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No:**
0906 500 3955 Box No: 408639

MIXED raced lady 34, widely travelled,
seeking gent, 30-40 for romance. **Tel No:**
0906 500 3955 Box No: 408429

68YR old lady, likes gardening, meals out,
days out, looking for sincere gent to share
time with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:**
408413

JENNY single independent attractive lady,
tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very
special male friend. Only genuine callers
pls. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:**
408285

CHRIS blonde eyed blonde single female,
lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights
in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for
possible ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box**
No: 407615

ATTRACTIVE female, young 49, 5ft 7ins,
blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, genuine,
loyal, easygoing. GSOH, seeks tall,
handsome male, 40-50 for fun times,
friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500**
3955 Box No: 406135

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit
naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks
male for kisses and cuddles. **Tel No: 0906**
500 3955 Box No: 363428

62YR old female, widowed, small, slim,
attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out,
dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking
professional gent. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955**
Box No: 394106

CAROL 36, looking for older experienced
gent 50-70yrs for fun times only, discretion
assured and expected. **Tel No: 0906 500**
3955 Box No: 401853

SUE attractive lonely brunette who loves
even in/out, music, WLTm someone
sincere to love and get close to, why not
give me a call? **Tel No: 0906 500 3955**
Box No: 407021

CURVY Irish female 35yrs looking for fun,
frolics, weekends away and lots of
excitement with reliable male, discretion
assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:**
407603

SLIM active lady, 60's, N/S, seeks honest,
kind gent, 57-62 for friendship, maybe
more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:**
407693

ANNABELLA board attractive 30
something nurse wanting healing hands
for no strings fun. No TLC required. **Tel**
No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407449

SUE 40's female who enjoys evenings
in/out looking for someone to have some
fun and hopefully get close to, go on, give
me a ring. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box**
No: 407019

NICKY loving caring gorgeous fun young
lady who loves swimming, dancing and
lots more, seeking male for text chats and
fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:**
407459

BLACK female, 45, seeking older gent, 60
plus who knows how to look after a lady.
Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407787

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PAM 71, feels younger, lots to give,
socialising, theatre, country walks, charity
work, seeking male to share interests with.
Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407851

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft
2ins, slim, size 12, brown hair, likes meals
out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart
male with GSOH, 58-62. **Tel No: 0906 500**
3955 Box No: 364651

MANDY divorced independent 46yr old
single mum, confident, bubbly and social,
looking for male companion to share good
times and to be there for each other. **Tel**
No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407469

NICKY 26 fun single female who has been
on her own far too long desperately
seeking her Prince Charming, must be
tactile and possess the ability to fall in love.
Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407485

MICHELLE lonely singleton, fit/slim,
passionate, easy-going seeks male to
cook for and generally spoil rotten in
exchange for great companionship. **Tel No:**
0906 500 3955 Box No: 407501

HEATHER larger than life, cuddly built
lady, scrubs up pretty well, employed,
OHAC, GSOH, looking for good times with
willing male, fun times guaranteed. **Tel No:**
0906 500 3955 Box No: 407307

TRACY 35yr old blonde petite single mum,
WLTm tall male for nights out, text chats
and hopefully ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955**
Box No: 407215

LYN slim size 10, 5ft 9ins, attractive with
GSOH, OHAC, employed, WLTm genuine
guy who is also looking to put some life
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Fun time Frank is coming home

COMEDIAN Frank Skinner is coming home to the Black Country and Birmingham, starting with gigs on Wednesday and Thursday, April 16-17, at Wolverhampton Civic Hall.

The Albion-supporting former lecturer at Halesowen College of Further Education, when he was known as Chris Collins, also brings his Man In A Suit Tour to the Symphony Hall for three consecutive nights from April 22. Call 0870 310 7000 for Wolverhampton tickets and 0121 345 0600 for Birmingham.

Tickets sold out within 90 minutes when hyperactive Lee Evans announced a warm up gig for his stadium tour at Stafford's Gatehouse Theatre on May 10.

Air and Fire on offer at Robin 2

PROGRESSIVE and psychedelic rock sounds from the 1960s and 70s are an influence on many of today's bands, from Muse to Temples, and the Robin 2 in Bilston is offering chances to check out a couple of those bands that pushed back the boundaries.

Sonja Kristina brings Curved Air (£15 advance/£16 door) featuring original drummer Florian Pilkington-Miksa to the venue on Sunday then on Thursday flamboyant Arthur Brown (£14 advance/£16 door) brings his Crazy World to perform. Fire and other rituals with flaming helmet! Call 01902 401211.

Last bow for the legendary Torvill and Dean Bolero routine

JT's 20/20 vision at LG Arena

IT'S party time at the LG Arena this weekend when American pop superstar Justin Timberlake brings his 20/20 Experience World Tour to the West Midlands.

The tuxedo and loaf-clad JT is promising an epic show. The set has featured up to 30 songs at other venues, many drawn from his two part album The 20/20 Experience, which last year completed the Memphis-born singer's return to the top in the music world after concentrating on his movie acting career.

Expect Mirrors, Rock Your Body, My Love and Cry Me A River, plus a couple of surprise cover versions, as the former member of boy band 'N Sync draws on a 12 year solo career.

Tickets start at £56.20 and go up to £104.70 for this blue chip gig.



Justin Timberlake on stage for his 20/20 Experience Tour last week Picture: Jonathan Pow

ICE is forecast as three skating shows glide into the region.

Torvill and Dean's Dancing On Ice The Final Tour at the NIA Birmingham from April 18 to 21 boasts a star-studded line-up from the TV show.

Champion of Champions Ray Quinn, the former X Factor crooner from Liverpool, tops the bill also featuring Grand panto favourite Joe Pasquale, Hear/Say singer and actress Suzanne Shaw, West End star Bonnie Langford, Olympic gymnast Beth Tweddle, Pop Idol runner-up singer Gareth Gates, former England rugby captain Kyran Bracken and Coronation Street actress Hayley Tamaddon.

Olympic gold medal winner Robin Cousins will lead the panel of judges which also features Karen Barber and Nicky Slater.

The biggest draw will no doubt be one of Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean's final performances of their legendary Bolero routine. This year marked the 30th anniversary of the routine at the Sarajevo Winter Olympics on Valentine's Day 1984 that captivated millions watching on TV around the world. It won the skaters from Nottingham gold after a flawless performance was rewarded with maximum points.

Robin Cousins' Ice will see a new generation of talent slide into action at



Ice stars Torvill and Dean

Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from April 23 to 27. Ice has been created by — but does not feature — veteran ice star Cousins. He handpicked the skaters for what he promises is a spectacular production, 30 years since his Electric Ice show first brought the grace and glamour of ice dancing to British theatres.

More blade action as The Russian Ice Stars bring Peter Pan on Ice to Lichfield's Garrick Theatre from April 22 to 26.

1960s nostalgia as veterans tour

FANS of 1960s music have a tough choice tomorrow night (Friday) with stars from pop's golden era in action at two local venues.

Motown legend Martha Reeves — whose hits include soul classics Dancing In The Streets, Jimmy Mack and Nowhere To Run — brings her Vandelas to Bilston venue The Robin 2. The 72-year-old great-grandmother returned to touring after serving as a councillor in her home city of Detroit. Tickets cost £20 in advance or £22.50 on the door.

At Birmingham Town Hall there is a package show featuring Brian Poole and The Tremeloes plus Chris Farlowe and Chris Montez backed by Vanity Fare. Tickets £28 plus fees.

Top tap talent step into Grand

TAP Factory has nothing to do with bathroom suites but it is being credited with rejuvenating a style of dance most readily associated with Fred Astaire, Gene Kelly and the golden age of Hollywood.

Tap is brought bang up to date with elements of hip hop, acrobatics and street dance in this show at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre for two nights only, Monday and Tuesday.

Dance is a major part of West Side Story at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre, using the groundbreaking 1950s choreography of Jerome Robbins, on until April 19.

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MAY					
Sun 4th	Highclere Castle (Downton Abbey)	£40	£40	£40	C
Mon 5th	House, Gardens & Egyptian Exhibition	£17	£16	£15	A
Sat 10th	Bank Holiday Special	£17	£16	£15	B
Sat 10th	Barmouth... for the day	£21	£21	£21	-
Tue 13th	The National Archives - Kew, London	£14	£13	n/a	D
Fri 16th	To book this trip Contact Phil Lamb on 0121 422 9131	£28	£25	n/a	B
Sat 17th	Abergavenny Market & Tewkesbury	£25	£25	£20	A
Sat 17th	2 For Tuesday (2 SEATS FOR £22)	£15	£15	£15	A
Tue 20th	Powis Castle & Gardens	£13	£12	n/a	D
Sun 25th	"Nifty National Trust Coach Club"	£18	£17	£16	E
Mon 26th	West Midlands Safari Park	£27	-	£26	E
Mon 26th	All inclusive Ticket (inc. unlimited ride wristband):	£15	£14	£13	B
Thu 29th	Weston-Super-Mare on Bank Holiday	£22	£22	n/a	TBC
Sat 31st	Nifty 50's Mystery Lunch Excursion (Last Thursday of the Month)	£50	£50	£40	C
JUNE					
Tue 3rd	Bourton-on-the-Water & Evesham Country Park	£13	£12	n/a	D
Sun 8th	2 for Tuesday (2 SEATS FOR £22)	£26	£25	£24	C
Wed 11th	RAF Cosford Air Show 2014	£25	£25	N/A	B
Sat 14th	Tyntonfield House, Chapel & Gardens (Bristol)	£20	£18	£16	A
Sun 15th	"Nifty National Trust coach Club"	£15	£14	£13	B
Sun 15th	London as you please... Trooping of the Colour	£25	£24	£23	E
Tues 17th	Weston-Super-Mare on Father's Day	£13	£12	n/a	D
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CHOICE



Ant & Dec

Britain's Got Talent (ITV, 7.15pm)

Now that The Voice UK has been laid to rest for another few months, this old favourite is unveiled to the masses. You know the drill by now: thousands of hopefuls take to the stage for there few minutes of fame, while the camera cuts to Ant and Dec every few minutes backstage. Last year's winner's, the shadow performance group Attraction, went down a storm with the masses both in the show at the Royal Variety, as well as appearing in a lucrative advertising campaign, so who knows what awaits the 2014 winner – or winners? Naturally there will be plenty of witty asides from judges Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry Cooks. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **12.45** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Golf: The Masters – 2014 Highlights. **2.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **3.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.15** Final Score. **5.15** Film: Shrek the Third. (2007) Animated sequel, with the voice of Mike Myers.

6.40 BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **7.00 Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a 1970s-themed edition, quizzing entertainment stars from the decade. The celebrity contestants are sitcom stars Anna Karen (On the Buses) and Sally Thomsett (Man About the House), radio DJ Ed "Stevopt" Stewart and Tinashe co-host Sally James, musicians Rick Wakeman and Roy Wood, and a pair of actors – Paul Henry, best known to Crossroads fans as lovable beanie-wearing simonette Benny, and Madeline Smith of Hammer Horror fame. Who'll be best when it comes to being worst?

7.50 The National Lottery: In It to Win It. New series. Dale Winton presents the quiz show in which five contestants pit their wits to scoop a big cash prize. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws and Lotto Plus 5 results.

8.40 Casualty. Jeff, Rita and Lily help a morbidly obese man get the help he needs, while Dixie bonds with an angry young motorcyclist. Robyn is flattered by Cal's support during an assessment.

9.30 The Guess List. New series. Rob Brydon hosts this game show in which five celebrities, including James Corden, Jennifer Saunders and Louis Smith, help answer all sorts of everyday questions.

10.10 BBC News: Weather. **10.30 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Fulham v Norwich City at Craven Cottage and Sunderland v Everton at the Stadium of Light; National Lottery Update.

11.50 The Football League Show. Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from today's fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two, including Queens Park Rangers v Nottingham Forest.

1.10 Weatherview. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Film: From This Day Forward. A couple look back on their relationship and consider the future in the aftermath of the husband's service in the Second World War. Drama, starring Joan Fontaine and Mark Stevens. **7.35** Great British Menu. (R) **8.05** Great British Menu. (R) **8.35** Great British Menu. (R) **9.05** Great British Menu. (R) **9.35** Great British Menu. (R) **10.05** The Living Planet. (R) **11.00** Fred Dibnah's Industrial Age. (R) **11.30** Great British Railway Journeys. (R) **12.00** James Martin: Home Comforts. **12.30** Joan Fontaine: Talking Pictures. **1.00 Film:** Suspicion. (1941) A newlywed is convinced her husband is up to no good when his business partner dies in mysterious circumstances. Alfred Hitchcock's thriller, starring Cary Grant and Joan Fontaine. **2.35 Film:** Rebecca. (1940) The naive second wife of a wealthy Cornish landowner is forced to live in the shadow of her glamorous predecessor. Romantic thriller, starring Laurence Olivier and Joan Fontaine. **4.45** Mountain Gorilla. (R) **5.45** Flog It! (R)

6.30 Escape to the Continent. Anita Rani heads to the Paphos district of Cyprus to help a couple find a home on a budget of £200,000. Away from the property search, Anita offers helpful tips on moving to the Mediterranean area and meets a food producer responsible for one of the island's most famous exports.

7.30 Golf: The Masters – Live. Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the third round of the opening Major of the year at the Augusta National Golf Club in Georgia, where Adam Scott is the reigning champion. Angel Cabrera and Brandt Snedeker both moved from being two shots off the lead after 36 holes to being tied at the top of the standings heading into the final round, with eventual champion Adam Scott one shot further back on six-under-par. The British contingent failed to make its expected challenge, with only Lee Westwood in the top 10 after round three, tied for ninth and five shots behind the leaders. With commentary by Peter Alliss, Ken Brown, Andrew Cotter and Paul Azinger, and reports by Rishi Persad. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

12.00 Film: Catch a Fire. (2006) A man is driven to become a freedom fighter in apartheid-era South Africa after he and his wife encounter police brutality. Fact-based drama, starring Derek Luke and Tim Robbins. **1.35** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. **6.10** Dino Dan. (R) **6.25** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.50** Animals. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.05** Animals. (R) **7.10** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Scrambled! **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Film: Murder, She Wrote: A Story to Die For. (2000) **11.15** Dinner Date. (R) **12.15** ITV News: Weather. **12.25** Countrywide. (R) **12.45** The Crocodile Hunter Diaries. (R) **1.15** Film: Smokey and the Bandit. (1977) Comedy, starring Burt Reynolds and Jackie Gleason. **3.00** The Chase. (R) **4.00** Regional Programme: Weather. **4.10** ITV News: Weather. **4.30** Live FA Cup Football. Wigan Athletic v Arsenal (Kick-off 5.07pm).

7.15 Britain's Got Talent. New series. Ant and Dec return with a fresh search for the nation's brightest new star, and there's a new addition to the judges' desk in the form of the golden buzzer, which gives Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon the power to send an act straight through to the live semi-finals regardless of their fellow panellists' opinions. However, they can each press it only once during the series. Leaving no stone unturned, the auditions visit London, Cardiff, Manchester, Birmingham and, for the first time, Belfast, as a wide variety of acts, from comedians to contortionists, singers to spoon players, compete for the chance to win £250,000 and a slot at this year's Royal Variety Performance.

8.30 Amazing Greys. New series. Paddy McGuinness and Angela Rippon host a game show in which young contestants take on senior citizens in a variety of challenges for a chance to win £10,000.

9.30 Law & Order: UK. Ronnie and Joe investigate the death of an elderly woman found at a well-known suicide spot, and Kate jeopardises her career as she struggles to remain professional during the case. (R)

10.30 The Americans. Elizabeth disguises herself as Clark's sister to smooth things over with Martha, and Philip works to clean up the mess of their last mission.

11.30 ITV News: Weather.

11.45 FA Cup Football Highlights. Wigan Athletic v Arsenal.

12.30 Through the Keyhole. (R) **1.25** Jackpot247. **3.00** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.30 The Grid. **7.00** Brighton Marathon. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.25** Frasier. (R) **9.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.50** How I Met Your Mother. **11.20** How I Met Your Mother. **11.50** The Simpsons. (R) **12.15** The Simpsons. (R) **12.45** Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. (R) **1.45** Channel 4 Gaming. Live coverage from Ayr and Newbury. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.20** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.50** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.25 Channel 4 News. **6.55** Lent Diaries. Short film going behind the scenes at Faithworld TV, a dedicated Christian television channel.

7.00 Grand Designs. Michael Butcher and Phil Palmer want to bring a touch of urban glamour to their new home at Christmas Farm near Newbury by creating a modern farmhouse that combines an open-plan party pad with functional spaces below. As the builders set to work on the handcrafted flint exterior, complete with a stone trapezoid window, the pair juggle construction with farming the land, and in an attempt to make the project work financially, they set up a microbrewery in the barn. Kevin McCleod follows their progress. (R)

8.00 Hostages. In the penultimate episode, Duncan discovers Sandrine's betrayal and decides to use it to his advantage in an attempt to help his family, who have fallen into Blair's hands. Meanwhile, Ellen has an important discussion with the first lady after the president's pre-surgery appointment. Toni Collette and Dylan McDermott star in the US drama.

9.00 Film: It's Complicated. (2009) Divorced couple Jane and Jake are reunited at their son's college graduation after 10 years apart, and end up sleeping together. Despite Jake's marriage to a younger woman and Jane's fledgling romance with a kindly architect, the pair end up having a clandestine affair. Romantic comedy, starring Meryl Streep, Alec Baldwin and Steve Martin.

11.15 Film: Epic Movie. (2007) Fantasy spoof, starring Kal Penn.

1.00 Film: Ashes of Time Redux. (1994) **2.35** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.35** SuperScrimpers. (R) **5.05** River Cottage Bites. (R) **5.15** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Access. **10.05** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!: Final Demand. (R) **11.05 Film:** Columbo: The Most Dangerous Match. (1973) Detective drama, with Peter Falk and Laurence Harvey. **12.25** Film: Scooby-Doo. (2002) Live-action comedy adventure, starring Sarah Michelle Gellar. **2.15 Film:** The Goonies. (1985) Children's adventure, starring Sean Astin. **4.25** News Weekend. **4.35** Most Shocking Talent Show Moments. (R)

7.15 Britain's Best Loved Double Acts. A countdown celebrating terrific twosomes, cracking couples and dazzling duos from the worlds of TV, film, music, animation and sport, as voted for by Channel 5 viewers in a poll. The programme features partnerships including the Two Ronnies, Morecambe & Wise and Ant and Dec, plus there are contributions by Ronnie Corbett, Zig and Zag, Cannon and Ball, Chas & Dave, David Baddiel, Penn & Teller, Trevor and Simon, Dick and Dom and Andi Peters and Emma Frow.

10.10 Morecambe & Wise Live! 1973. The duo's performance at Croydon's Fairfield Halls, which was the only one of their stage shows captured on film and has not been aired on television for nearly 30 years. (R)

11.35 Film: The Plank. (1967) Two clumsy workmen carry a plank to a building site, causing various mishaps and accidents along the way. Slapstick comedy, directed by and starring Eric Sykes. With Tommy Cooper.

12.30 Film: Up the Chastity Belt. (1971) The identical twin of Richard the Lionheart is raised as a seafarer, and struggles to keep a cowardly knight out of trouble. Medieval comedy, starring Frankie Howerd and Graham Crowden. **2.05** SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.35** Running Riot: Britain's Teen Criminals. The realities of life for some of Britain's most notorious offenders, including two brothers among the youngest in the country to receive Asbos, and a schoolboy-turned-armed robber. (R) **4.20** Make It Hot. The team is under intense pressure to sell tickets. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. Double bill. The animals are frightened by the night. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. Mick and Ellie help to resolve a squabble. (R) **5.10** Roary the Racing Car. Marsha tidies up the workshop. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show.

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00** Top Gear India Special **8.30** Film: Toy Story (1995) **9.45** Sweat the Small Stuff **10.15** Russell Howard's Good News Extra **11.00** Family Guy **1.15** Sweat the Small Stuff **1.45** In the Flesh **3.45** Kerry **4.00** Close

BBC Four **8.00** Wild Wales **8.00** Chemistry – A Volatile History **9.00** Inspector De Luca **10.40** Icebound: The Greatest God Story Ever Told **11.40** Natural World: Grizzlies of Alaska **12.40** Top of the Pops: 1979 **1.15** Sounds of the 70s **2** New Wave – Hit Me with Your Rhythm Stick **1.45** Chemistry – A Volatile History **2.45** Wild Wales **3.40** Close

ITV2 **11.05** The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills **1.00** Tom Daley Goes Global **2.05** You've Been Framed! **2.35** Film: The Incredible Hulk (2008) **4.50** Film: Cats & Dogs (2001) **6.35** Film: Year One (2009) **8.30** Britain's Got More Talent **9.35** You've Been Framed! **10.05** Celebrity Juice **10.50** Crazy Beaches **11.15** Britain's Got Talent **12.30** Britain's Got More Talent **1.30** Fake Reaction **2.10** Dads **2.30** You've Been Framed! **2.55** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3**

11.20 Hidden Treasure **1.20** Agatha Christie's Marple **5.25** Foyle's War **7.30** Rosemary & Thyme **8.30** Doc Martin **9.30** Joanna Lumley's Greek Odyssey **10.30** Cold Blood **10.50** Agatha Christie's Marple **1.50** Judge Judy **2.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4 **1.55** Film: The Last Sunset (1961) **4.10** Film: Spartacus (1960) **8.00** Ali: Still the Greatest **9.00** Film: Universal Soldier: Regeneration (2009) **11.00** Film: Scarface (1983) **2.30** Cheers **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** The Store **5.30** Teleshopping **E4**

1.00 How I Met Your Mother **2.00** The Big Bang Theory **3.00** Rude (ish) Tube **4.00** Made in Chelsea **5.05** How I Met Your Mother **6.05** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** How I Met Your Mother **8.00** The Tomorrow People **9.00** Film: Mission: Impossible **2** (2000) **11.25** The Big Bang Theory **12.25** Rude Tube: Epic Fails **1.30** 2 Broke Girls **2.00** Youngers **2.55** The Cleveland Show **3.40** Made in Chelsea **Film4** **1.00** Five Children and It (2004) **1.10** Crocodile Dundee II (1988) **3.10** Fantastic Voyage (1966) **5.10** Gulliver's Travels (2010) **6.50** Mighty Joe Young (1998) **9.00** Unstoppable (2010) **10.55** Insidious (2010) **1.00** Inferno (1980) **3.20** Close

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Stephen Mangan and Gemma Arterton

The Olivier Awards 2014 (ITV, 10.15pm)
The screen stars have had their fun at the Baftas, the Oscars, the Golden Globes and all the other red-carpet bashes that make up the award season. So now it's time for Britain's theatre actors to take centre stage, as ITV brings us highlights from the 38th Olivier Awards. It looks set to be a good night for musicals, with the new version of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and the revival of *Stephen Sondheim's Merrily We Roll Along* leading the field with seven nominations each. So, have your jazz hands at the ready as Gemma Arterton and Stephen Mangan present the ceremony from the Royal Opera House. And if that doesn't sound theatrical enough, Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvæus are also dropping by to celebrate 15 years of *Mamma Mia!*

BBC1

6.00 *Breakfast*. **7.05** *Match of the Day* (R) **8.30** *Athletics: London Marathon*. **2.30** *Sunday Politics*. **3.45** *Bargain Hunt*. (R) **4.30** *Escape to the Country*. **5.00** *Songs of Praise*. **5.35** *The People's Portrait*.
6.35 *BBC News: Regional News; Weather*.
7.00 *Countryfile*. The Merseyside coast around Southport is the setting this week as Matt Baker looks at the history of shrimping in the area and Ellie Harrison visits a farming family as they harvest this year's first crop of potatoes. Shauna Lowry meets a couple of brothers inspired by the area's seascapes and talks to artist Antony Gormley about his standing men statues, spread out along the shoreline of Crosby beach. Tom Heap investigates the demise of farmland birds in the UK over the past few decades and Adam Henson looks at the latest gadgets available to farmers. Including *Weather for the Week Ahead*.
8.00 *Antiques Roadshow*. Fiona Bruce and the experts pay a return visit to the Royal Agricultural University near Cirencester in the Cotswolds. Items include a contraption that was used to stop an amorous lover intent on elopement with a vicar's daughter, a portrait of the first chairman of a well-known British insurance company, a 14th-century seal bought at a car-boot sale and a teapot which may have been handled by Lord Nelson. Red button viewers can play along by guessing the valuations.
9.00 *The Crimson Field*. Kitty nurses a badly injured major who wakes to discover his troops have been all-but wiped out, while Joan clashes with Sister Margaret over the volunteers' responsibilities.
10.00 *BBC News: Regional News; Weather*.
10.25 *Match of the Day 2*. Liverpool v Manchester City and Swansea City v Chelsea. Highlights of the Premier League matches at Anfield and the Liberty Stadium respectively.
11.25 *The Graham Norton Show*. Graham chats to a trio of stars from the forthcoming sequel to *The Amazing Spider-Man* – Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone and Jamie Foxx. (R)
12.10 *Film: Outrageous Fortune*. (1987) **1.45** *Weatherview*. **1.50** *BBC News*.

BBC2

6.25 *Film: The Westerner*. (1940) A wandering cowboy gets mixed up in a range war between cattlemen and homesteaders and becomes an enemy of a notorious judge. Western, starring Gary Cooper and Walter Brennan. **8.00** *Countryfile*. (R) **9.00** *Gardeners' World*. (R) **9.30** *The Beechgrove Garden*. **10.00** *Saturday Kitchen Best Bites*. **11.30** *James Martin: Home Comforts*. (R) **12.15** *MOTD Extra*. Football discussion with the Match of the Day team; *Weather for the Week Ahead*. **1.05** *Film: Gypsy*. (1962) Musical about striptease artist Gypsy Rose Lee, following her relationship with her ambitious mother. Starring Rosalind Russell and Natalie Wood, with songs by Stephen Sondheim. **3.25** *Coast*. (R) **3.30** *Great Barrier Reef*. (R) **4.30** *Fog It!* **5.30** *Athletics: London Marathon* – Highlights. **6.30** *Golf: The Masters – Live*. Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the fourth and final day from the Augusta National in Georgia, where the year's first Major is set to reach a conclusion. Before last year's tournament, Australian golfers had finished in second place a total of nine times, but both Jason Day and Adam Scott were among the leaders for much of the week, and Scott eventually ended his country's agonising record by beating Angel Cabrera on the second hole of a play-off. Tiger Woods sporadically threatened to challenge, but could not find the consistency to end his drought in Majors that dates back to 2008, while Thorbjørn Olesen of Denmark found himself in the unlikely position of leading European in a tie for fifth, with Lee Westwood the highest-placed British golfer in a share of eighth. With commentary by Peter Alliss, Ken Brown, Andrew Cotter and Paul Azinger, and reports by Rishi Persad. Subsequent programmes subject to change.
12.00 *Film: Phantoms*. (1998) Two sisters and a sheriff try to find out why all the residents of their home town have vanished, with help from a paranormal expert. Horror, starring Peter O'Toole and Ben Affleck. **1.30** *Sign Zone: Countryfile*. Princess Anne invites Tom Heap to her Gloucestershire home, Galtcombe Park, which she runs as a working farm, talking about the issues facing the British countryside. (R) **2.25** *Holby City*. Harry is intrigued to learn Raf and Amy's marriage is not quite as perfect as it appears. Dominic offends best friend Zosia. (R) **3.25** *This is BBC Two*.

ITV

6.00 *CITV: Dino Dan*. **6.10** *Dino Dan*. (R) **6.25** *Matt Hatter Chronicles*. (R) **6.50** *Animals*. (R) **7.00** *Animals*. (R) **7.05** *Animals*. (R) **7.10** *Om Nom Stories*. (R) **7.15** *Sooty*. (R) **7.30** *Scrambled!* **9.25** *Dickinson's Real Deal*. (R) **10.25** *Film: Columbo: Murder, Smoke and Shadows*. (1989) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **12.25** *ITV News: Weather*. **12.30** *The Crocodile Hunter Diaries*. (R) **1.00** *All Star Family Fortunes*. (R) **1.45** *Big Star's Little Star*. (R) **2.40** *Britain's Got Talent*. (R) **3.55** *Film: Octopussy*. (1983) James Bond spy adventure, starring Roger Moore.
6.25 *Regional Programme: Weather*. **6.30** *ITV News: Weather*.
6.45 *Catchphrase*. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show, asking three contestants to "see it and say it" as they try to guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues. After the first elimination, the two remaining players battle to reach the Super Catchphrase round, where one of them could win £50,000.
7.30 *Off Their Rockers*. A pensioner attempts a daredevil escape from a care home. Rosemary needs help to locate her dog and Sonia has a quick nap on a comfy shoulder. Hidden-camera comedy, featuring fearless senior citizens playing pranks on the public.
8.00 *Endeavour*. A housewife found choked to death in her own home marks the third strangulation in a month, setting Oxford police on edge. As a manhunt begins in search of a murderer targeting married women, Endeavour looks into the origin of the sick stocking used to kill the latest victim, tracing the garment to its sole supplier in the city. However, as the suspect list narrows and the culprit stalks his prey with increasing desperation, Morse and Thursday find their private lives turned upside down and miss a deeper tragedy unfolding.
10.00 *ITV News at Ten*; *Weather*.
10.15 *The Olivier Awards 2014*. Highlights of today's ceremony celebrating British theatre, featuring Abba's Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvæus in a 15th-anniversary celebration of the hit stage show *Mamma Mia!*!
12.00 *Premiership Rugby Union*. **12.50** *The Store*. Home shopping. **2.35** *The Jeremy Kyle Show USA*. (R) **4.05** *ITV Nightscreen*. Text-based information service. **5.05** *The Jeremy Kyle Show*. Guests air their differences. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 *Street Velodrome*. (R) **6.40** *Goodwood 72nd Members' Meeting*. **7.05** *How I Met Your Mother*. **7.30** *How I Met Your Mother*. **7.55** *Everybody Loves Raymond*. (R) **8.25** *Frasier*. (R) **8.55** *Frasier*. (R) **9.30** *Sunday Brunch*. **12.30** *Secret Eaters*. (R) **1.35** *The Big Bang Theory*. (R) **2.05** *The Simpsons*. (R) **2.35** *Film: Stormbreaker*. (2006) Spy adventure, starring Alex Pettyfer. **4.25** *Deal or No Deal*. **5.25** *Channel 4 News*. **5.45** *Let's Dance*. **5.50** *Film: Marley and Me*. (2008) Comedy drama, starring Owen Wilson and Jennifer Aniston.
8.00 *Dirty Weekend* in France with Richard E Grant. The self-confessed curio hunter takes a trip to France to explore the world of professional antique hunters and dealers who seek out hidden treasures at flea markets and shops all over the country, hoping to find items that will sell in the UK. The actor is joined by two dealers to discover the secrets behind a variety of vintage finds, as well as exploring the history and culture of the areas they visit. But can they recover their outlay in a weekend?
9.00 *Film: The Three Musketeers*. (2011) Premiere. A hot-headed swordsman sets off to join the King of France's royal guard, and falls in with a trio of former members who have fallen into disgrace. They join forces to defeat a plot to overthrow the king by an English lord who has built a deadly war airship. Swashbuckling adventure, with Logan Lerman, Milla Jovovich, Matthew Macfadyen, Ray Stevenson and Luke Evans.
11.15 *Film: No Country for Old Men*. (2007) A hunter takes the money left at the scene of a botched drug deal, but a merciless hitman is on his trail. The Coen brothers' thriller, starring Josh Brolin and Javier Bardem.
1.30 *The Good Wife*. A South American dictator causes complications in a dispute. (R) **2.20** *The Hotel*. The staff encounter several problems as they prepare for Ladies' Night, and one of the bedrooms receives a last-minute makeover as the inspector returns to assess the Grosvenor. (R) **3.15** *Secret Removers*. Claire Smith and George Johnson help a violinist to surprise her husband with a new family home in which he can work on his compositions without distraction. (R) **4.10** *SuperScrimers*. (R) **5.05** *Deal or No Deal*. Beat-the-banker game show. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 *Milkshake!*: Peppa Pig. **6.05** *Roary the Racing Car*. (R) **6.15** *Fifi and the Flowerpots*. (R) **6.25** *Bubble Guppies*. (R) **6.35** *The Mr Men Show*. (R) **6.50** *Chloe's Closet*. **7.00** *Roobarb and Custard Too*. (R) **7.10** *Bananas in Pyjamas*. (R) **7.20** *Make Way for Noddy*. (R) **7.30** *Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures*. (R) **7.40** *City of Friends*. (R) **7.50** *Little Princess*. (R) **8.05** *The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky*. (R) **8.25** *Angelina Ballerina*. (R) **8.40** *Rupert Bear*. (R) **8.55** *Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom*. (R) **9.15** *Jelly Jam*. (R) **9.30** *LazyTown*. (R) **10.00** *Power Rangers Super Samurai*. (R) **10.25** *Power Rangers Megaforce*. (R) **11.00** *Film: Winnie the Pooh*. (2011) Animated adventure, with the voice of Jim Cummings. **1.50** *Film: Surf's Up*. (2007) Animated comedy, with the voice of Jeff Bridges. **3.25** *Film: Chicken Little*. (2005) Premiere. Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Zach Braff. **4.55** *Film: Oliver & Company*. (1988) Premiere. Animated adventure, with the voice of Joey Lawrence.
6.25 *5 News Weekend*.
6.30 *Film: Spider-Man 3*. (2007) A sinister alien parasite brings out the web-slinging hero's darker side, filling him with thoughts of revenge on his uncle's murderer, the shape-shifting Sandman. Meanwhile, he also has to contend with the challenge of his best friend following in his father's villainous footsteps – and a jealous rival developing superpowers of his own. Superhero sequel, with Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst and James Franco.
9.00 *Film: Grown Ups*. (2010) Premiere. Five friends attend the funeral of their basketball coach, and decide to relive their childhood over a weekend at a lake house. Comedy, with Adam Sandler and Chris Rock.
11.10 *Film: The Goonies*. (1985) The discovery of a treasure map plunges seven kids into the adventure of a lifetime to save their homes from developers. Children's adventure, starring Sean Astin and Corey Feldman.
1.15 *Police Interceptors*. (R) **2.05** *SuperCasino*. **3.35** *The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door*. (R) **4.20** *Make It Big*. (R) **4.50** *The Funky Valley Show*. (R) **5.00** *Angels of Jarm*. (R) **5.05** *Roary the Racing Car*. (R) **5.20** *Angels of Jarm*. (R) **5.25** *The Funky Valley Show*. (R) **5.40** *Roary the Racing Car*. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 *Great Movie Mistakes 2: The Sequel*. **8.00** *Film: Toy Story 2* (1999) **9.30** *Live at the Apollo* **10.00** *Family Guy* **10.45** *Sweat the Small Stuff* **11.15** *American Dad!* **12.00** *The Call Centre* **1.00** *Porn – What's the Harm?* **2.00** *Killer Magic* **2.30** *Sweat the Small Stuff* **3.00** *In the Flesh*
BBC Four
7.00 *Danny Boy: The Ballad That Bewitched the World* **8.00** *Ultimate Irish Music at the Royal Albert Hall: A Presidential Celebration* **9.00** *Voyages of Discovery* **10.00** *The Sky at Night* **10.30** *Definitely Dusty* **11.30** *Danny Boy: The Ballad That Bewitched the World* **12.30** *Arena: Amy Winehouse – The Day She Came to Dingle* **1.30** *Britpop at the BBC* **2.30** *Voyages of Discovery* **3.30** *The Sky at Night* **4.00** *Close*
ITV2
12.25 *Film: Dennis* (1993) **2.15** *Film: Nancy Drew* (2007) **4.25** *Britain's Got Talent* **5.40** *Britain's Got More Talent* **6.45** *You've Been Framed* **7.15** *Film: Johnny English* (2003) **9.00** *Film: Knocked Out* (2007) **11.35** *Film: Paranormal Activity* (2007) **1.30** *Mom* **2.20** *The Vampire Diaries*
ITV3
1.35 *Agatha Christie's Marple* **3.40** *Rosemary & Thyme* **4.40** *Agatha Christie's Point 5.55* *Inspector Morse* **8.00** *The Zoo* **9.00** *Birds of a Feather* **9.30** *Vicious* **10.00** *Film: Private Benjamin* (1980) **12.20** *Film: Murder by Decree* (1978) **2.35** *Judge Judy* **3.15** *ITV3 Nightscreen* **3.40** *Emmerdale*
ITV4
11.25 *As X Men* **12.20** *Film: Night Passage* (1957) **2.15** *Film: Spartacus* (1960) **6.00** *Storage Wars* **8.00** *Premiership Rugby Union* **9.00** *FA Cup Football Highlights* **10.00** *Film: Public Enemies* (2009) **12.45** *Benidorm* **1.50** *World's Wildest Police Videos* **2.35** *Highway Patrol* **3.00** *The Store*
E4
12.30 *Made in Chelsea* **1.35** *Revenge* **2.40** *Rude(ish)* **3.05** *How I Met Your Mother* **4.05** *The Big Bang Theory* **5.00** *The Tomorrow People* **6.00** *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* **6.35** *The Big Bang Theory* **8.00** *Film: The Simpsons Movie* (2007) **10.00** *Rude Tube*: Epic Fails **11.00** *How I Met Your Mother* **12.00** *Rules of Engagement* **1.00** *The Cleveland Show* **2.00** *Bob's Burgers* **3.10** *Hollyoaks*
Film4
11.00 *Baby's Day Out* (1994) **1.00** *Bandslam* (2009) **3.10** *James and the Giant Peach* (1996) **4.45** *Mirror Mirror* (2012) **6.50** *America's Sweethearts* (2007) **9.00** *Forrest Gump* (1994) **11.40** *The Beach* (2000) **2.00** *Heartbeats* (2010)

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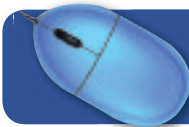
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Film Choices

MONDAY

Mystery Woman, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A photographer inherits a bookshop specialising in crime novels and soon finds herself embroiled in a real-life conundrum. When her literary idol is found hanged, she refuses to believe it was suicide and tries to prove he was killed to stop him revealing the truth about an unsolved murder. The first in the series of whodunits, starring Kellie Martin and Robert Wagner. (2003)

TUESDAY

The Grudge 2, ITV, 10.35pm

After barely surviving a fire that burned a cursed Tokyo house to the ground, Karen Davis is recovering in hospital. Karen's sister Aubrey travels to Japan to bring her home, but her investigation into the suspicious events leading up to her sibling's injuries sets Aubrey on a frantic mission to prevent menacing supernatural beings from reaching the US. Horror sequel, with Amber Tamblyn, Sarah Michelle Gellar, Edison Chen and Arielle Kebbel. (2006)

WEDNESDAY

Scary Movie 4, BBC1, 11.55pm

Dim-witted Cindy Campbell gets a job as the caretaker of a haunted house, where she comes into contact with the ghost of a little Japanese boy. He tells her he knows a secret way to rid the Earth of invading aliens – but then he unfortunately vanishes before passing it on to her. Spoof horror sequel, starring Anna Faris, Leslie Nielsen, Craig Bierko, Anthony Anderson and Carmen Electra. (2006)



The Bourne Supremacy, Friday, ITV, 10.15pm

THURSDAY

Mercury Rising, ITV, 10.35pm

A top-secret government agency has developed a seemingly unbreakable code – only for an autistic boy to crack it in an instant. Assassins succeed in gunning down his parents, but a maverick FBI agent investigating their deaths finds the child hiding in a closet, and resolves to shield him from the hitmen on his trail. Thriller, starring Bruce Willis. (1998)

FRIDAY

The Bourne Supremacy, ITV, 10.15pm

The amnesiac assassin is living quietly in hiding, until his former employers come after him again and murder his girlfriend. A CIA operation has ended in disaster, and those responsible intend to clear their names by implicating Bourne. As the former secret agent tries to evade the hitmen on his trail, he also struggles to piece together the truth about his past. Action thriller sequel, starring Matt Damon, Brian Cox, Joan Allen and Julia Stiles. (2004)

Pick of the Week

The nation waits for a new star to be born

Now The Voice UK has been laid to rest for another few months, the talent search gap is filled by this old favourite.

You know the drill by now: thousands of hopefuls take to the stage for there few minutes of fame, while the camera cuts to Ant and Dec every few minutes backstage cackling like light entertainment's answer to Hamlet's Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.

If that reference is too highbrow, rest assured there's no chance of that with BGT. It won't tax your literary knowledge at all, but it will delight, shock, entertain and leave millions in face-palm mode as the good, the mediocre and the genuinely hopeless deliver their act.

So, if Ant had any advice for the participants, what would it be?

Step it up when you get to the live shows," he explains. "Those acts that have got real talent raise their game and put a lot of thought and rehearsal into their act." Dec admits he is always amazed by the variety of talent on offer. "Every

day we arrive at the auditions and don't know who is about to appear, so for us it's as surprising as it is for the audience. That's why we love our role on the show."

There's a slight change to proceedings this year with the introduction of the Golden Buzzer. Each judge gets the chance to press it, which will fast track the act to the live shows without any further auditions. As judges Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon are now all proud parents, there's perhaps little surprise the BGT marketing team have coined the phrase: "The Mummy and Daddy of all talent shows is back!" Hmm, not the greatest tagline we've ever seen, but it scarcely matters as many of the acts we'll see this year should than make up for any lacklustre straplines. And who knows? Some of the contestants may even end up as movie stars.

Since the series began seven years ago we've marvelled as Paul Potts went from phone salesman to singing sensation; gasped at Diversity's street-smart moves,

and our ribs were tickled by impressionist Paul Burling. All have been featured in movies since, with James Corden portraying Potts in One Chance, Ashley Banjo's dance troupe stealing the show in Streetdance 3D, and Burling appearing in The Harry Hill Movie. And with winning pooch Pudsey about to be seen on the big screen in his own film, it looks like BGT-inspired flicks are set to continue for some time to come. Last year's winner's, the Hungarian shadow performance group Attraction, went down a storm with the masses both in the show at the Royal Variety, as well as appearing in a lucrative advertising campaign, so who knows what awaits the 2014 winner – or winners?

As the show kicks off, there will be plenty of witty asides from judges Simon, David, Amanda and Alesha, and no doubt a few plugs for Cowell and Harry Hill's new musical I Can't Sing along the way.

Let's hope the vocalists in this edition don't live up to its name.



The judges pass their opinion in Britain's Got Talent, ITV, 7.15pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Undeniable

ITV, 9pm

Monday night, 9pm, ITV – which means it's time for another one of their WIPFPBD sagas (Woman in peril from psycho bloke dramas). Okay, that acronym will never catch on, but ITV bosses love turning out these formulaic strands regardless, and the latest one is a cracker. For newcomers, Claire Goose plays Jane Phillips, a woman who recognises Andrew, the consultant oncologist who killed her mother 23 years ago. Despite undeniable evidence, Jane remains convinced he is guilty, so when her prime suspect is reinstated at the hospital where he works, she assaults him. The supporting cast includes Peter Firth, Felix Scott, Christine Bottomley and Pippa Haywood.

The Treasure Hunters

BBC1, 9pm

After spending last week seeking out the earth's natural treasures, Dallas Campbell and Ellie Harrison turn their attentions to those which have been crafted by human hands. As the two-part documentary draws to a close, Dallas dons his diving suit and descends to a shipwreck where 5,000 emeralds have been found, before heading off to locate a treasure chest hidden in the Rocky Mountains and coming face to face with China's Terracotta Army. Ellie, meanwhile, walks into a bejewelled room in Russia which has been decked out with millions of pounds' worth of amber. She also talks to diamond-cutters about just how costly a slip of the hand can be, and stares into the death mask of Tutankhamun.

TUESDAY

The Big Allotment Challenge

BBC2, 8pm

Amateur stitchers have The Great British Sewing Bee, cooks have MasterChef, and people who can make really nice bread have The Great British Bake Off, so it was probably about time that the nation's gardeners got a chance to show off their skills. Presented by Fern Britton, the six-part series sees nine pairs of 'allotmenters' taking on challenges designed to test their ability to cultivate fruits, vegetables and flowers that will meet the high standards of award-winning gardener Jim Butters, international floral designer Jonathan Moseley and 'Queen of Preserves' Thane Prince. In this opening episode, the contestants face their first challenge – growing and presenting three matching radishes and seven perfect spikes of sweet peas, making up a floral arrangement and turning ingredients from their allotment into jam.

WEDNESDAY

The Hunt for the Boston Bombers

Channel 4, 10pm

This documentary charts the efforts of the FBI and Boston Police Department to track down those responsible for the bombs which killed three people and injured a further 264 at last year's Boston Marathon. Spokespeople from those organisations, as well as victims and witnesses relate the events of that terrifying day, as well as the procedures the authorities followed – and the dilemmas

they faced when it came to revealing who their suspects were. Was it right to release photographs of the culprits in an attempt to flush them out, or did it lead to further acts of violence? There's also an insight into the part played by the media, and the lessons learned from the experiences of all involved.

THURSDAY

Protecting Our Parents

BBC2, 9pm

It might shock most to know that there are more pensioners than children living in Britain, and more pressure than ever is being placed on the NHS and social services. This insightful three-part series examines the issue, as cameras follow teams in Birmingham dealing with older adults, charting cases over the course of a year from their perspective. In this first instalment, we meet Betty Williams, Jim Page and Henry Robinson, who have each found themselves in hospital as the result of a fall. They're all keen to return home, but the professionals are faced with the challenge of balancing their patients' safety with their hankering for independence.



The Treasure Hunters, Monday, BBC1, 9pm

Protecting Our Parents

BBC2, 9pm

It might shock most to know that there are more pensioners than children living in Britain, and more pressure than ever is being placed on the NHS and social services. This insightful three-part series examines the issue, as cameras follow teams in Birmingham dealing with older adults, charting cases over the course of a year from their perspective. In this first instalment, we meet Betty Williams, Jim Page and Henry Robinson, who have each found themselves in hospital as the result of a fall. They're all keen to return home, but the professionals are faced with the challenge of balancing their patients' safety with their hankering for independence.

FRIDAY

The Great North Passion

BBC1, 12pm

It's Good Friday and BBC is marking the occasion by taking the story of the Passion, from Christ's trial to his eventual death, and transplanting it to the seafront at South Shields. If you don't think that sounds particularly biblical, you'll have to think again when you see the set for this live event – it's being staged in a cross made out of shipping containers. Presenter Fern Britton will also be bringing us this extravaganza of art, dance and music, with contributions from local performers and special guest, one-time X Factor winner Alexandra Burke. And documentary short films exploring both the Passion and the story of the North East, it looks set to be a celebration of the region, as well as a timely reminder that there's more to Easter than chocolate eggs.

star★extraTRAVEL London Theatre Breaks

Choose your show, price band* and how you want to travel

Rail inclusive breaks – Two or three days

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

Departures most weekends

Selected weekend departures

Saturday Night Theatre from £149.⁹⁵

Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance.

Saturday Night from £139.⁹⁵

Dine and Dance from £149.⁹⁵

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing.

Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and a disco (conditions apply). Or the Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the show to see an evening performance.

Theatre Showstopper from £199.⁹⁵

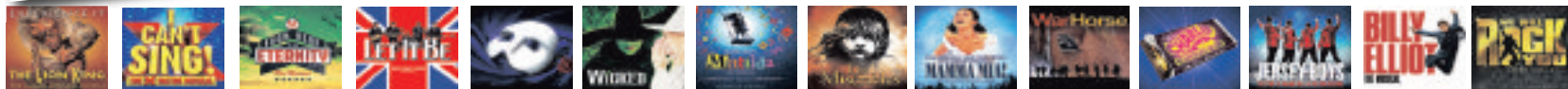
This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening.

Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options).

Pick ups points offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply. for all breaks

Organised by Omega Events Ltd (ABTA Y590X)

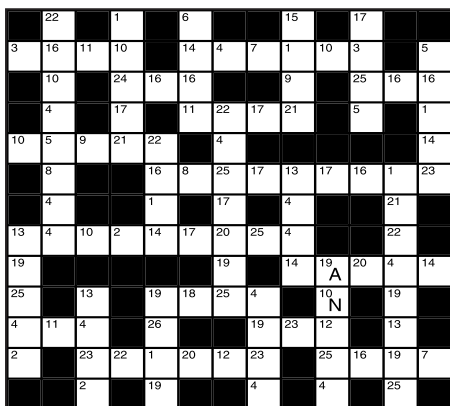


For a theatre brochure please call the promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go expressandstar.com/starextratravel

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	A	N	P	V	G	I	Z	T	Y	S	L	F	J
14	O	K	R	M	W	Q	D	E	X	C	U	B	H

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

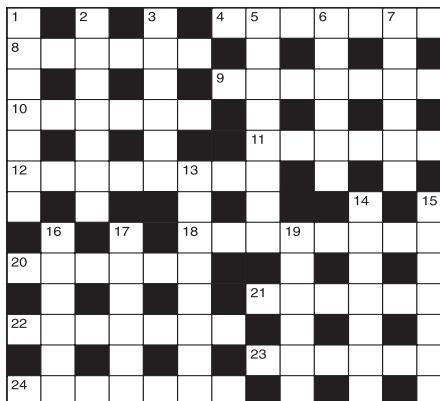
Cryptic Clues:

Across

4. Waiting for Mass (7)
8. Sort of type inclined to impress (6)
9. Not straight (7)
10. This by itself is a very gradual process (6)
11. Catch a potential parent (6)
12. A water-colour? (3-5)
18. Drawing too much (8)
20. Keep your thanks in check (6)
21. A cook may use a tin one (6)
22. Strangely men fail to get excited (7)
23. Ensures one has a nap standing up (6)
24. Upset a caterer in a domestic row (7)

Down

1. Still without music (7)
2. Father on trial perhaps, and that's not all (7)
3. Farmer at the helm (6)
5. A rise for a cardinal (8)
6. Boasts in a letter to relations (6)
7. Possibly cares about a Roman emperor (6)
13. In distribution of income the company is thrifty (8)
14. Sharing out with relish (7)
15. Speech might indicate where one's home is (7)
16. Spirited comeback can cause a scene (6)
17. He may live for weeks on water (6)
19. Produced the rent (6)



Quick Clues:

Across

4. Debate (7)
8. Publicly (6)
9. Idiomatic (7)
10. Ingenious (6)
11. Supplication (6)
12. Judgement (8)
18. Cloudy (8)
20. Disclose (6)
21. Well (6)
22. Attribute (7)
23. Expand (6)
24. Lower (7)

Down

1. Admit (7)
2. Protection (7)
3. Changes (6)
5. Example (8)
7. Ice-cream and fruit (6)
13. Solitary (8)
14. First-class (7)
15. Reel (7)
16. Decline (6)
17. Vendor (6)
19. Mend (6)

Sudoku

	5	7				1		
				7	8		5	
2		9	4					6
		5		9		8		
4			2		5		9	1
		6		1		3		
7					6	5		3
	6		7				1	
8	4						6	7

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

2	7	4	5	1	3	8	9	6
6	9	3	2	8	7	5	1	4
1	5	8	6	9	4	7	2	3
3	6	5	1	4	2	9	7	8
7	1	9	8	5	6	4	3	2
4	8	2	7	3	9	6	5	1
5	2	6	3	7	8	1	4	9
9	3	7	4	6	1	2	8	5
8	4	1	9	2	5	3	6	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTOIC - Across: 1 Street-lamps; 9 Nun; 10 Electrode; 11 Exact; 13 Tartans; 14 Ice age; 16 Espies; 18 Asinine; 19 Manse; 20 Chastised; 21 Sic; 22 Astronomers. Down: 2 Ton; 3 Erect; 4 Twenty; 5 Attires; 6 Probation; 7 Inheritance; 8 Persistence; 12 Americans; 15 Glitter; 17 Season; 19 Madam; 21 Sir. QUICK - Across: 1 Predominant; 3 One; 10 Definable; 11 Drake; 13 Letters; 14 Entice; 16 Speech; 18 Remorse; 19 Easel; 20 Extricate; 21 Hue; 22 Ingratitude. Down: 2 Rue; 3 Dodge; 4 Muffle; 5 Non stop; 6 Nobleness; 7 Cold hearted; 8 Lease holder; 12 Automaton; 15 Carrier; 17 Depart; 19 Exert; 21 Hid.

Do you organise events?

Get your event listed on all the important sites and publications including The Guardian Guide, Time Out, The List and local press.

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*SOURCE: JICREG 01.10.2012

An Express & Star supplement

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Property

Express & Star

Extended property has lots of security features



THIS unique four bedroomed house in Whitgreave Street, West Bromwich is vastly extended.

It is for sale through Goodchilds at £275,995. Features include a security CCTV system, smart phone access to the cameras and remote opening of side gates and garage door. The property also has a large conservatory which is carpeted, four downstairs reception rooms including a lounge with an attractive brick built fireplace and inset cast iron multi burner fire plus a spacious dining room with two sets of double doors off. There is also a family room and a utility, and an en-suite bathroom with a roll top bath, curved shower enclosure and fitted bedroom wardrobes. The kitchen has wood effect flooring, white units and wood effect surfaces. There is a further en-suite shower room.

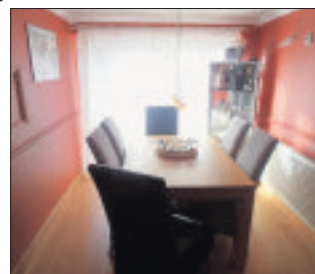
Contact Goodchilds on 0121 5067670 or visit www.goodchilds-uk.com website.



Link-detached home is in a popular area

AN extended link-detached property in a popular location in Myrtle Terrace, Tipton lies close to schools, amenities, road links and The Royal Society of Arts Academy.

It is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £179,995. A spokesman for the selling agent said: "The property must be viewed to appreciate the size of living space and what the garden offers." Features include block paved driveway, entrance hallway, lounge area with gas fire, sitting area, a dining room and kitchen. There are three first floor bedrooms one of which is fitted with wardrobes, under-floor heating and a bathroom with a corner bath. For more information contact Skitts Estate Agents 121 5202255 or visit www.skitts.net



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GREEN LANE, HALESOWEN



TO LET

UNFURNISHED - AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY - 3 bed terrace SPACIOUS accommodation, Two reception rooms large kitchen diner, Downstairs bathroom & WC on first floor, 3 bedrooms. GCH & UPVC DBG (Majority) Coasting arch with shared access to rear garden. NO DSS - NO PETS - NO SMOKERS - DL161 EPC Rating F - Admin fee of £100 per tenant

£600 pcm TO LET Ref: DL161

RIDGEFIELD ROAD, HALESOWEN



TO LET

UNFURNISHED - AVAILABLE FROM 18TH APRIL - 3 bedroom semi-detached home with DRIVEWAY for several vehicles. 14ft lounge, 14ft kitchen diner & downstairs WC. Fitted bathroom on 1st floor. GCH & double glazed. Rear garden. NO DSS - NO PETS OR SMOKERS. EPC Rating C. Ref: DL135 - Admin fee £100 per tenant

£550 pcm TO LET Ref: DL135

GRAHAM ROAD, HALESOWEN



TO LET

UNFURNISHED - AVAILABLE FROM 25TH MARCH - 3 bed semi detached home. Kitchen, dining room & lounge with conservatory off. 3 Beds (TWO DOUBLES) & bathroom on first floor. GCH & DBG (in part). Parking & garden to rear. CUL - DE-SAC position. NO DSS - NO PETS - NO SMOKERS - EPC Rating E. Admin fee £100 Per Tenant. Ref: DL129

£550 pcm TO LET Ref: DL129

MOOR STREET, BRIERLEY HILL



TO LET

UNFURNISHED - AVAILABLE FROM 7TH APRIL - GROUND FLOOR apartment with PARKING. MODERN block close to shops and amenities & Merry Hill Shopping centre. Open plan LIVING AREA with lounge/diner and kitchen, 2 beds & bathroom. Modern electric heating, UPVC DBG, SECURE INTERCOM ENTRY SYSTEM. NO DSS - NO SMOKERS - NO PETS. EPC Rating E Ref:DL146 - Admin fee £100 per tenant

£495 pcm TO LET Ref: DL146

LIGHTWOODS HILL, BEARWOOD



NEW

MUCH IMPROVED 3 storey home overlooking WARLEY WOODS. REFITTED 24ft breakfast kitchen & 2 LARGE reception rooms. 5 DOUBLE bedrooms over top 2 floors. REFITTED family bathroom & REFITTED en suite shower. Driveway to front. Rear garden having PRIVATE SOUTHERLY aspect. UPVC DG & GCH. EPC rating: D Ref: D1424

£365,000 Ref: D1424

NORMAN ROAD, SMETHWICK



NEW

EXTENDED & LARGE semi detached home with DRIVEWAY. 23ft REFITTED dining kitchen & separate utility/WC. 2 further reception rooms. Master bedroom with EN-SUITE shower room. 3 further bedrooms & REFITTED luxury 13ft family bathroom. Lawn garden & patio. UPVC DG & GCH. EPC rating: D Ref: D1432

£239,950 Ref: D1432

MONMOUTH ROAD, BEARWOOD



NEW

EXTENDED & well presented home with LARGE rear garden in SOUGHT AFTER location. REFITTED downstairs WC. 19ft kitchen & 2 SPACIOUS reception rooms & CONSERVATORY. REFITTED family bathroom & 3 good size bedrooms. DRIVEWAY to front. Gas central heating & majority double glazing. EPC rating: D Ref: D1433

£225,000 Ref: D1433

GREENACRES, BARTLEY GREEN



NEW

DETACHED & WELL PRESENTED modern family home. Lounge & separate dining room. FITTED kitchen & downstairs WC. 3 bedrooms with FITTED wardrobes & family bathroom. DRIVEWAY to front & lawn garden to rear & side. UPVC DG & GCH. EPC rating: C Ref: D1420

£179,950 Ref: D1420

FOXHOLLIES DRIVE, HALESOWEN



NEW

DETACHED modern home in CUL-DE-SAC location. 14ft lounge, 16ft kitchen diner & downstairs WC. REFITTED family bathroom & 3 bedrooms on 1st floor. GARAGE & driveway giving off road parking. SOUTHERLY rear garden. UPVC DG & gas central heating. EPC rating: D Ref: D1419

£179,950 Ref: D1419

TENNAL ROAD, HARBORNE



NEW

WELL PROPORTIONED end terrace with GARAGE & PARKING TO FRONT. Popular location on QUINTON/HARBORNE BORDER. 29ft 4 (MAX) LOUNGE/DINING ROOM & fitted kitchen. 3 GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS. REFITTED BATHROOM. Front and rear gardens. UPVC DBG (majority) & GCH - WELL PRESENTED THROUGHOUT. EPC rating: D Ref: D1187

£159,950 Ref: D1187

PINEWOOD DRIVE, BARTLEY GREEN



NEW

Well presented home on large CORNER PLOT position with POTENTIAL TO EXTEND. 18ft lounge, REFITTED kitchen & 16ft CONSERVATORY. 3 bedrooms & REFITTED bathroom & shower. UPVC DG & gas central heating. GARAGE & driveway for several vehicles. Gardens to BOTH side & rear. EPC rating: Ref: D1426

£144,950 Ref: D1426

THE GRANGE, HALESOWEN



NEW

1ST floor apartment in SOUGHT AFTER development set in IMMACULATE gardens with GARAGE. REFITTED 21ft kitchen/lounge. 2 DOUBLE bedrooms & REFITTED bathroom. NO UPWARD CHAIN. Warm air heating system. 953 YEARS REMAINING ON LEASE. EPC rating: D Ref: D1422

£118,950 Ref: D1422

HURST ROAD, SMETHWICK



NEW

FOR SALE BY AUCTION ON 24th MAY at 12 noon at Ramada Hotel, Oldbury. NO UPWARD CHAIN. 25ft lounge diner & 11ft kitchen. REFITTED bathroom & 3 bedrooms on 1st floor. GARAGE & driveway. Garden to rear. Gas central heating fitted & majority double glazing. EPC rating D Ref: D1425

GUIDE PRICE: £110,000 Ref: D1425

EDEN GARDENS, ROWLEY REGIS



NEW

LUXURY ground floor apartment with 2 DOUBLE bedrooms & EN-SUITE shower room off the master bedroom & further family bathroom also. OPEN PLAN 18ft lounge dinner with FITTED kitchen area. Allocated PARKING in CUL-DE-SAC location. UPVC double glazing & electric heating fitted. EPC rating: Ref: D1430

£99,950 Ref: D1430

GEORGE ROAD, OLDBURY



NEW

Victorian terraced home having 2 independently accessed DOUBLE bedrooms. REFITTED family bathroom with white suite. 2 separate reception rooms. REFITTED kitchen to rear. Gardens to rear. UPVC double glazed & gas central heating fitted. EPC rating: D Ref: D1429

£95,000 Ref: D1429

BURY HILL ROAD, OLDBURY

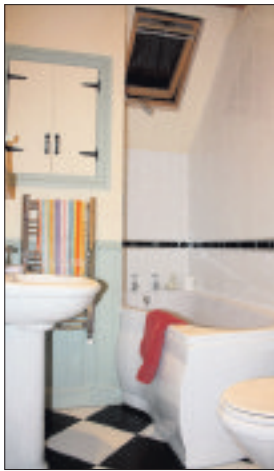


NEW

SPACIOUS terraced home with low maintenance GARDEN to rear. 2 separate reception rooms, breakfast area & REFITTED kitchen. 2 DOUBLE bedrooms & REFITTED shower room on 1st floor. UPVC DG & GCH fitted. EPC rating: D Ref: D1428

£94,950 Ref: D1428

Cottage-style extended refurbished property



A REFURBISHED, extended cottage-style property in The Alley, Gornal, is for sale via Bakers Property at £215,000.
It has a lounge with inglenook fireplace and free standing multi fuel burner, oak laminate flooring and an archway to a formal dining area, kitchen with butchers block style work surfaces, a lobby, cloak-room, landing, two bedrooms (one with a vaulted ceiling and exposed beams), a bathroom with a pedestal wash hand basin, WC, shower, tiling and a skylight window. Call 01384 252527 or visit www.bakersproperty.co.uk



Four-bedroom home in walking distance of vil-



A FOUR-BEDROOMED detached family home in a sought after and prestigious address in Gospel End Road, Sedgley is within walking distance of the village centre.
It is for sale through Swinscoes at £259,950.
With gas central heating and double glazing the selling agents say this sale represents excellent value. The home's flexible living space includes an entrance hall, lounge, an open plan and recently fitted dining kitchen, utility room, a play room/sitting room and downstairs WC, four bedrooms, two en-suite shower rooms and a bathroom, driveway parking for several cars, a garage and private rear garden.
For further information contact Swinscoes on 01902 672274 or visit www.swinscoes.co.uk



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NEW
KINGSWINFORM, Mount Pleasant £750 pcm - Fees
Absolutely fantastic and not too be missed. This huge end terrace home has 3 reception rooms, brand new vaulted kitchen, downstairs WC, 2 double bedrooms on the 1st floor with a brand new bathroom and shower, and the loft has been converted into a 3rd bedroom. This property has had a full makeover. Viewing is essential to appreciate the size of this house. EPC: TBC



BRIERLEY HILL, Golden Cross Way £750 pcm - Fees
A furnished detached house close to Briery Hill Town Centre. Featuring a downstairs w.c., living/dining room, fitted kitchen, 3 good size bedrooms, master bedroom with en suite shower room, house bathroom. Benefits also include gas central heating, front and rear gardens, garage. Convenient location for Merry Hill. Inspection strongly recommended. EPC: C



NEW
CRADLEY HEATH, Dorothy Adams Close £675 pcm - Fees
An unfurnished modern three storey townhouse, close to shops and rail links, briefly comprising of: 3 bedrooms, downstairs wc, lounge/dining room, fitted kitchen, master bedroom with en-suite and dressing area, house bathroom with shower, garage and driveway, rear garden. Available immediately. EPC: C



ROWLEY REGIS, Alwin Road £650 pcm - Fees
This detached house in a cul-de-sac location. Located close to local shops and transport links. Featuring gas central heating, living room, dining area, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower, rear garden, driveway parking, unfurnished. EPC: TBC



BRIERLEY HILL, Stockwell Avenue £625 pcm - Fees
Early viewing is essential for this 3 bedroom semi-detached home in a popular location with accommodation comprising of entrance hall, lounge, dining room, new fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, re-fitted bathroom with shower, off road parking and front and rear gardens. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Holt Road £595 pcm - Fees
2 MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE! An immaculately presented mid terraced property in a convenient location for shops, buses and motorway links. The property features a homely lounge, dining room, luxury refitted shower room, 2 double bedrooms, and 2 single loft rooms, gas central heating, double glazing, small rear courtyard garden, on road parking. EPC: D



CRADLEY HEATH, Cradley Road £550 pcm - Fees
A semi detached house within walking distance to Cradley Heath Town Centre and rail links to Birmingham. This lovely house features 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower. Benefits include gas central heating, double glazing, driveway, enclosed front garden. Available 01/05/14. EPC: E



NETHERTON, Purlin Wharf £550 pcm - Fees
A very presentable, unfurnished 1st floor apartment on this popular development, overlooking the canal. Featuring 2 double bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen with fridge freezer, master bedroom with en-suite, family bathroom with hair wash shower only, double glazing, electric heating, 1 allocated parking space. Viewing highly recommended. EPC: B



HALESOWEN, Malt Mill Lane £530 pcm - Fees
A superb fully re-furnished traditional terraced house. Within easy reach of Blackheath and a short drive from Halesowen and the M5. This home features 2 large reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazing. A must see property! EPC: C



NEW
QUARRY BANK, Charles Road £525 pcm - Fees
Within walking distance to Quarry Bank shops and bus links. This property is also close by to Cradley Heath Train Station and Merry Hill. This home features 2 bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted dining kitchen, bathroom with shower, paved driveway and rear gardens. EPC: TBC



CRADLEY HEATH, Luanne Close £525 pcm - Fees
Situated in a popular residential area. This ground floor apartment, which overlooks the canal and has its own balcony, features 2 bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, access to balcony from the master bedroom, gas central heating, double glazing, allocated parking. Well worth a viewing. EPC: B



HALESOWEN, Peckingham Street £525 pcm - Fees
Wonderfully refurbished with original features maintained and fantastic convenience centre of town. Ring us now to view this lovely, light, airy apartment, modern kitchen with new appliances and useful utility room. With 2 double bedrooms, this is a must see exceptional apartment. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Upper Ashley Street £495 pcm - Fees
Set in this quiet residential area close to Blackheath Town Centre is this lovely modern mid-terraced home featuring lounge, fitted kitchen with gas oven/hob, 1 double & 1 large single bedroom, shower room, gas central heating, rear garden and parking for 2 cars, unfurnished. EPC: C



CRADLEY HEATH, Coppice Road £485 pcm - Fees
A 2 bedroom semi-detached house recently fully refurbished on the Timbertree Estate. This house comprises of a front reception room, spacious rear lounge, fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, front and rear gardens, on road parking. EPC: C



NEW
ROWLEY REGIS, Titford Lane £475 pcm - Fees
An unfurnished mid terraced house close to local shops and motorway links which is ideal for the 1st time renter. This lovely home features 3 bedrooms, fitted kitchen, good size lounge, house bathroom with shower, driveway parking, and low maintenance rear garden. EPC: D



CRADLEY HEATH, Elbow Street £475 pcm - Fees
An unfurnished 3rd floor apartment on a popular development, close to Old Hill High Street and the local Train Station. The property features: living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower. Benefits include electric storage heating, allocated parking space. EPC: D



CRADLEY HEATH, Mill Road £475 pcm - Fees
Located on this very popular Timbertree Estate and ideally situated for local schools and transport links. Comprising 1 double and 2 single bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, modern kitchen, house bathroom with shower, tiered rear garden. On road parking. EPC: D



OLDBURY, Arden Grove £475 pcm - Fees
1st floor modern apartment occupying the whole of the top floor. Within walking distance of Langley High St, train/bus links and J2 of the M5. This immaculate property features a spacious lounge, recently refitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, 1 double bedroom. Private garden and driveway parking. EPC: C



BRIERLEY HILL, Norwood Road £450 pcm - Fees
An unfurnished end terrace house, close to local shops and not far from Merry Hill Shopping Centre. This large house features a lovely living room, fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazing, rear garden, on road parking. EPC: E



LYE, High Street £400 pcm - Fees
Fully refurnished in the centre of Lye. This large and spacious 1st floor apartment has a lovely lounge with a feature bay window, 2 good size bedrooms, new bathroom suite but no shower, modern and contemporary kitchen with oven and hob, electric heating, double glazing, on road parking. EPC: F



CRADLEY HEATH, Trinity Street £375 pcm - Fees
House share in a large Victorian semi-detached home. Large furnished double bedroom available in this lovely period house. Kitchen, bathroom and large lounge are all shared facilities. Wi-Fi broadband. Rent to include all bills. 2 people sharing will be £100 pcm extra. EPC: E

Sales & Lettings
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Estate Agents

Doing **More...**

Bluebell Road, Cradley Heath



£160,000

A three bedroom detached house comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, WC, master bedroom with en-suite and family bathroom. Halesowen

Newfield Lane, Halesowen



£150,000

This semi detached property situated in the heart of Halesowen comprises lounge, second reception room, kitchen, three bedrooms and garage.

Vicarage Road, Halesowen



£117,995

Situated in an established residential area briefly comprising lounge, conservatory and two bedrooms. Halesowen.

Waterfall Lane, Rowley Regis



£110,000

Comprising lounge, kitchen, cellar, two bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens. Halesowen

Meres Road, Halesowen



£110,000

Traditional semi detached house situated in an established residential area. Comprises lounge/diner and three bedrooms. Halesowen

Hartlebury Road, Oldbury



£80,000

A three bedroom semi detached house in need of refurbishment. Offering good sized accommodation with vacant possession. Halesowen

Bromsgrove Road, Hunnington



£75,000

Twelve month occupancy Park home comprising lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and garden area. This would only be for clients over 55. Halesowen

Smith Street, Dudley



Offers Over £160,000

Link detached four bedroom property comprising lounge, dining room, kitchen, reception room, downstairs WC, family bathroom, garage and drive.

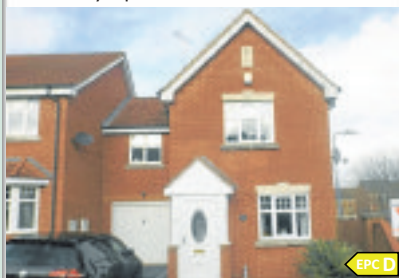
Cowley Drive, Dudley



£155,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen, two reception rooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens.

Oxford Way, Tipton



Offers Over £140,000

End terraced three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, family bathroom, front and rear gardens.

Highgate, Dudley



Offers Over £110,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising kitchen, utility area, downstairs WC, upstairs shower room, rear garden and driveway.

Lambert Fold, Dudley



Offers Over £110,000

Mid terraced, well presented, two bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, conservatory, loft space and allocated parking.

Aston Street, Tipton



Offers Over £110,000

Terraced three bedroom property briefly comprising kitchen, dining room, lounge, conservatory, upstairs shower room and rear garden.

Regent Road, Tividale



Offers Over £100,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising two reception rooms, kitchen, family bathroom, rear garden and driveway.

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Spacious new family home near to the High Street



A NEW detached four-bedroom property in the Alderney design is for sale in Bell Lane, Bloxwich, Walsall with part exchange considered.

It is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £249,950. It features an entrance hall with cloakroom, a spacious lounge with French doors to the garden, a separate dining room, a stunning kitchen/dining/family room with light oak style units and contrasting work surfaces and space for a dining table and chairs and also a seating area. It also has French doors out to the rear garden. Upstairs there are three double and one single bedrooms, with the master having an en-suite shower room. The family bathroom has a white suite.

Part of The Brides development by Barratt Homes, it is within walking distance of Bloxwich High Street.



Extended breakfast kitchen at this semi

A MUCH-IMPROVED three bedroomed semi-detached property in Thursfield Road, West Bromwich, features an extended breakfast kitchen.

It is for sale through Paul Dubberley at £197,950.

With double glazing and gas central heating, it has an entrance hall, guest wc, through lounge with leaded bay window and a feature fireplace, L-shaped breakfast kitchen with French doors, three bedrooms, a bathroom and a delightful well maintained rear garden with a patio, pond and water feature.

Contact Paul Dubberley on 0121 5252111 or visit www.pauldubberley.co.uk



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HALESOWEN £210,000 COCKSHED LANE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detached Property EPC Rating D Lounge Dining Room Fitted Kitchen Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c Integral Garage Driveway Front and Rear Gardens Internal Viewing Recommended 	QUINTON, OIRO £165,000 UPPER MEADOW ROAD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immaculate Bay Fronted Semi Detached Property EPC Rating E Lounge Kitchen Dining Room Three Bedrooms Shower Room Benefitting from A Gas Central Heating System and Double Glazing Block Paved Driveway Large Rear Garden Garage To The Rear 	OLDBURY £150,000 LINKS ROAD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D Lounge Dining Room Kitchen D'stairs Shower Room Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c Garage Drive Front and Rear Gardens Large Plot To Side Of Property No Upward Chain 	HALESOWEN £136,950 FRANKLEY AVENUE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Semi Detached Property EPC Rating C Two Reception Rooms Kitchen Two Bedrooms Bathroom W/c Off Road Parking Front and Rear Gardens Set Back From Main Road No Upward Chain 	QUINTON £125,000 SIMMONS DRIVE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating C Lounge Dining Room Fitted Kitchen Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c Driveway To The Front Garden To The Rear Well Presented Property Internal Viewing Recommended 	OLDBURY £125,000 ELIZABETH CRESCENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating D Lounge Dining Room Kitchen Four Bedrooms Bathroom W/c Gas Central Heating System Double Glazing Front and Rear Gardens
OLDBURY £120,000 PINKNEY PLACE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Semi Detached Property EPC Rating E Through Lounge Dining Room Conservatory Kitchen Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c Shared Drive Leading To Garage Front and Rear Gardens Benefiting From Having No Upward Chain 	OLDBURY £118,500 WORCESTER ROAD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating D Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility/Cloakroom Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c Property Benefits From A Gas Central Heating System and Double Glazing Driveway To The Front Garden To The Rear 	BARTLEY GREEN £117,500 POMEROY ROAD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating C Spacious Lounge Fitted Kitchen Diner Three Well Proportioned Bedrooms Bathroom W/c Front and Rear Gardens Garage En-bloc Well Presented Property Internal Viewing Highly Recommended 	BARTLEY GREEN £110,000 FIELD LANE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating C Through Lounge Kitchen Utility Area Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c Block Paved Frontage Garden To The Rear Benefitting From A Gas Central Heating System and Double Glazing 	OLDBURY £110,000 ROOD END ROAD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating D Two Reception Rooms Kitchen Downstairs Bathroom Three Bedrooms Upstairs W/c Walled Frontage Garden To The Rear Some Original Features Internal Viewing Recommended 	QUINTON Offers Over DAVENTRY GROVE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immaculate First Floor Apartment EPC Rating C Through Lounge Dining Room Fitted Kitchen Two Bedrooms Shower Room W/c Property Recently Re-furnished Internal Viewing Highly Recommended No Upward Chain
OLDBURY £97,500 FARM ROAD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating D Property Benefits From Double Glazing And A Gas Central Heating System Lounge Dining Room Kitchen Downstairs Bathroom Two Bedrooms Garden To The Rear Of The Property Internal Viewing Recommended 	BARTLEY GREEN Offers Over £95,000 ATHOL CLOSE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating D Lounge Good Sized Kitchen-Diner Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c Gardens To The Front and Rear Viewing Recommended No Upward Chain 	QUINTON £89,950 DAVENTRY GROVE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spacious 2nd Floor Apartment EPC Rating E Through Lounge Dining Room Kitchen Two Bedrooms Bathroom Separate W/c Communal Gardens Benefits From No Upward Chain 	OLDBURY £80,000 PERRY COURT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grid Floor Retirement Apartment EPC Rating C Lounge Kitchen Two Bedrooms Bathroom W/c Communal Gardens Non Allocated Parking Area Only Available To Over 55's Benefits From Having No Upward Chain 	OLDBURY £59,500 GUARDIAN HOUSE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Floor Retirement Apartment Awaiting EPC Rating Lounge Kitchen Two Bedrooms Shower Room Complex Benefits From A Lift, Security Entrance System On Site Manager Communal Gardens Non Allocated Car Park To The Rear Property Benefits From No Upward Chain 	SMETHWICK NOTICE OF OFFER <p>24 Sandhurst Court, Dursland Road, Smethwick, West Midlands, B66 4DU. We advise that an offer has been made for the above property in the sum of £65,000. Any persons wishing to increase on this offer should notify the agents of their bid offer prior to exchanging of contracts. Your Move, 156 High Street, Harborne, B17 9PN. 0121 426 2740. EPC Rating D</p>

Skoda scores at awards

By David Banner

Škoda UK scooped two prestigious accolades at this year's Fleet News Awards which took place at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London.

The 'Oscars' of the fleet calendar, the annual event recognises the best-performing businesses and individuals within the sector during the last 12 months.

The panel of judges, made up of members of the Fleet News editorial team as well as industry experts, voted the Škoda Octavia Estate the 'Best Estate Car' for its combination of affordability and space,

in addition to its range of efficient power plants. The Superb Estate, a winner of the category for the last two years, once again came highly-acclaimed in the same class.

Busy

In what proved to be a busy night for the vehicle manufacturer, the Škoda Yeti was also named 'Best Crossover', a model praised by the panel for quality, versatility, low rate of depreciation, and offering a very appealing and solid proposition to fleet operators.

Judge Stephen Briers, editor of Fleet News said: "The Octavia Estate has the best balance of space versus cost in this category. "An excellent choice of efficient engines combined with strong driver appeal, makes it an ideal option as a stylish



'Škoda Yeti was named Best Crossover, a model praised for quality, versatility and low rate of depreciation'

and flexible workhorse. Škoda's second winner, Yeti, is a good all-rounder, with excellent running costs and the flexibility offered by on-road or (genuine) off-road options. The 2013 facelift made an already great car even better. Excellent build quality and very strong used values add to the perfect package."

Patrick McGillycuddy, head of fleet for Škoda UK said: "We are extremely proud to have received these two prestigious industry awards for the Škoda Octavia Estate and the Yeti crossover. Providing an

exceptional level of practicality and value for money, as well as highly competitive CO2 emissions, both models have consistently proved popular amongst company car drivers."

He added: "These accolades are a great achievement and further re-inforce a very encouraging first quarter for Škoda fleet."

"It is also testament to the team's continued commitment to building strong relationships with our customers and offering them expert advice about the model range."

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Volvo V70 gets high praise

By Graham Breeze

There was a time that I teased my boss because he was a Volvo driver but how times have changed.

Not only is he no longer my boss but only recently I found myself praising the virtues of the V70 on a week-long test drive.

When you mention Volvo you think large and practical estates but the latest model is a far cry from the archetypal load carrier that I taunted my former employer about.

Volvo has not gone down the same old road with the V70 D4 SE Nav Geartronic because there is a certain style and sportiness for this new master load-carrier together with all the usual versatility you would expect.



Six decades after the launch of the first Wagon, the V70 carries on the tradition of combining form and function.

The motorway is the ideal place for this Volvo, so it's little wonder that police forces across the land have models patrolling major transport routes in the UK.

The new D4 comes with 181hp and 400Nm of torque and the engine features world-first i-Art technology that helps to cut fuel consumption.

The V70 really is the ultimate, spacious car offering families comfort and sophistication combined with an impressive 575 litres of load space.

The rear seats can be folded down in three 40/20/40 segments, giving more options to configure the space. With all of the rear seats folded flat, the load space grows to a cavernous 1,600 litres.

Consumption

The two outer rear seats can also be fitted with integrated two-stage child seats – with one simple movement, booster cushions pop up from the seat giving a comfortable and safe ride height for children from the age of three and upwards.

The new D4 comes with 181hp and 400Nm of torque. The engine features world-first i-Art technology that helps to cut fuel consumption.

The new car is more elegant, with greater road-hugging stance. The refined design emphasises the look of the V70 with a wider front grille, as well as more detail work and daytime running lights, along with added chrome touches to give the car a more upmarket feel.

The Adaptive Digital Display screen is fitted as standard on SE Lux and is available



‘The latest model is a far cry from the archetypal load carrier that I taunted my former employer about.’

as an option on all other specifications and you can choose from three themes.

The Active High Beam Control helps the driver use high beam more efficiently.

It also offers automatic switching between high and low beam at the right moment.

Inside, an all-new ambient light enhances driving at night. It illuminates key features such as cup holders, door releases, seat controls, and luggage and storage areas.

Cars equipped with the automatic gearbox also feature a new gearshift knob with piano-black inlay.


Cars equipped with a rain sensor now

also get an electrically-heated windscreen for rapid de-icing on cold winter days.

Volvo now offers drivers in cold climates extra comfort, with the introduction of an optional heated steering wheel.

Cars with an automatic transmission can also be specified with paddle shifters, enabling the driver to shift gear manually with both hands on the wheel.

The D4 SE on test hit the road at £33,120 and has a top speed of 140mph, gets from 0-60mph in 7.9seconds, with CO2 emissions of just 113g/km and has combined fuel figures of an impressive 65.7mpg. Quite a package.

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4 Pets & Animals

pets corner

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5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

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6 Property

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01902 885742.

MERCEDES C300 AUTO DIESEL
Estate, Dec 2002, 7 seat, Avant Garde, silver with leather, one owner, very good condition, 182k miles.
£2,150.
07767 250149.

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PEUGEOT 207 09 reg, 5 door, silver, petrol, 16,500 miles, lady owner, good condition, MoT, tax, CD, £4,550 ono. 07886 781724.

PEUGEOT 307 HDI DIESEL
TURBO 2.0 04, 5-dr, silver, full MoT, six months tax, 73,000 miles.
£1,850. 07838 89763.

RENAULT MEGANE 1.6, black, 2006, 40,000 miles, 6 months MoT and tax, alloys, CD, air con, fsh, HPI clear, £2,650 ono. 07860 257426.

SAAB AERO Convertible, metallic fusion blue, 56 plate, FSH, all extras, AC, MoT, tax, excellent condition, £4,995 ono. 07800 993479



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£6,750 ono.
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TOYOTA AVENTIS ESTATE
2007(07), 79k miles, T3X 1.8 petrol, fsh, (dealer serviced), 12 months MoT, 10 months tax. Excellent condition.
£3,750.
07854 389261.

TOYOTA AYGO, 2006, 48,000 miles, black, fsh, 12 months MoT, good condition, 5 door, £2,750. 07811 312039.

VAUXHALL ASTRA Elegance, 53 reg, 86k, AC, alloy wheels, MoT, 5 months tax, new cam belt, excellent condition, £1,650. 07852 102626.

VAUXHALL Astra TwinTop Convertible Design 1.8, 06 reg, tax, MoT, 51k, excellent condition inside/out, £4,200 ono. 07955 112559.

VAUXHALL CORSA, design, 1.4, 5dr, silver, 2009, 1 lady owner, 27,800k, 6 months tax, 10 months MoT, FSH, £5,500. 01902 733418.

MUST BE SEEN

VOLVO C30 R DESIGN
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01384 572711. 07906 954417.

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FORD C MAX 04, 1.8 petrol, 100k, MoT Dec, drives excellent, body / interior in good condition, must see, bargain £1400 ono. 07807 048019.

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1.6 GHIA
1984, 71,290 miles, taxed, MoT, immaculate, gold paintwork, sliding sunroof, lots of history, bargain, £975.
0121 364 7888.

FORD FIESTA 1.25 ZETEC, 1999, 16, 5 door, central locking, air con, alloys, Sony CD, tax and MoT, very good condition, £550 ono. 07812 813576.

FORD KA, T reg, MoT, new clutch, new battery, good condition, £250 ono. 07974 462326.

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01562 850162.

MG ZS HATCHBACK 2003, long MoT, 105k miles, very clean, £695. 07350 398750

MITSUBISHI GALANT 2.4 GDI, GLS saloon, 2001, Y, Taxed, MoT'd, 90k, very clean, superb drive, £1,495 ono. 01902 759511.

RENAULT CLIO 02 plate, 12 months MoT, SR, alloys, very nice car, £995. 07351 819599.

RENAULT CLIO EXPRESSION, 1200cc, 53 Reg, black, 5Dr, tax, MoT, fsh, lovely condition, low miles, £1,395. 07867 685692.

RENAULT LAGUNA 2L Expression, 55 reg, silver, Sept MoT, sh, alloys, cd, 84k, lovely car in and out. £1,995. 07399 191902.

RENAULT MEGANE 1600 Coupe, 51, tax May, MoT June, service history, excellent condition, £700. Telephone 01902 685692.

RENAULT MEGANE Convertible, 2003, tax/MoT, good runner, £900. 01902 490826

RENAULT SCENIC 1.4 CG model, 52 plate, blue, average mileage, CD radio, 12 months MoT, £1,000 ono. 07933 918920.

ROVER 45, 03 reg, 34,000 miles, with MoT, abs, MoT, abs, w/e, m/a, CD, very good condition, drives like new, £950 ono. 07371 383003.

ROVER 45 IMPRESSION 1.6cc, blue, 52, tax, MoT, excellent condition, leather interior, £875 ono. 07411 958454.

TOYOTA YARIS 1.0 T reg, red, 3dr, 100k, 12 months MoT, clean and tidy, very reliable, ideal 1st car £850 ono. 01902 721187.

VAUXHALL CORSA, 1998, blue, MoT until October, tax till end of April, CD, 2 previous owners, reliable, £349 ono. 07759 502353.

VW POLO 2001, 1.4 petrol, 5 months tax, 12 months MoT, GTI Rep, blue £950 ono. 07825 637684.

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motorbikes

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HONDA CBR 600CC, Race bike, steel frame, tuned engine, WP suspension fitted early, 600 RR forks and callipers, was ready for 2013 season did not race, ready for 2014, loads of spares.
£1,350.
07787 955532.

HONDA VFR V4 750, 1987, immaculate condition, MoT till end of October, tax and April, dry stored, £900 ono. 07730 596969.

JINLING VENOM quad bike, 250cc, 61 plate, very low mileage, immaculate condition, £1,300. Please call 07807 402335.

MINI MOTO Twist and Go, very good, £195. 07787 955532.

PAUL PHANTOM motorcycle, 50cc, 2012, no MoT needed till 2015; couple of scuffs, £375 ono. 07939 990820.

YAMAHA PW50 Childs motor cross, excellent condition, new tyres, £475 ono. 01902 763710 or 07814 172986.

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10 Personals

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personal



ATTENTION LADIES 40-55
Please don't pass this advert by, read on and see I'm a genuine guy.

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3 stars

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This is a genuine ad.
Genuine replies only.
Box Number P19149, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

5 stars

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N/S, caring nature.
Looking for lady to enjoy lunches out in the countryside and afternoon dalliances.
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GENTLEMAN 72
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5 stars

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N/S with young outlook.
WLTm Sincere gentleman, n/s, between 60 - 65, with GSOH, who enjoys holidays, meals out, theatre etc, to hopefully have a future together.
From Stourbridge/surrounding areas.
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LOOK

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sports clubs



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Nathan is relaxed over final call-up

NATHAN Greaves insists he will relax and enjoy the experience of riding in the British Under-21 Final on his home track next Tuesday.

Greaves, 16, is in his second season with Cradley who host the prestigious event at their adopted Wolverhampton home.

The talented teenager won a call-up into the meeting following the withdrawal of reigning champion Robert Branford.

Greaves says it's only right after narrowly missing out on automatic qualification in the semi-final at Plymouth last month.

"I should have qualified that night to be honest," said Greaves. "But I was just a bit unlucky so I'm pleased to have got the call.

Greaves' Heathens team-mate Tom Perry also figures in the meeting along with former club favourite Ashley Morris and Dan Greenwood, who won the National League title last season.

Normal admission prices apply for the event but Cradley season tickets are not valid.

Prices are £11 adults, £8 concessions, £2 children and a one-off programme will be available for £3.

Juniors in win over DK rivals

**Walsall U-13s 36
Dudley K-ford U-13s 10**

BOTH teams played good disciplined rugby. Walsall really applied the pressure well, scoring first through Leo Gilliland. But the visitors came back strongly and only some strong Walsall defending, with Luke Cox in particular, helped to keep DK from scoring.

Both teams displayed a lot of good running and support play which ensured that it was an enjoyable game for the large band of spectators.

Leo Gilliland scored two more tries, while Arnold Addai made an impressive debut scoring two tries. Lewis Hawkins got Walsall's other score with Joe Webster kicking three conversions.

Brightest moment comes at darkest time

Norwich 0 Albion 1

ISN'T it just typical?

In football, the brightest moments so often come in the darkest times.

And so it proved for Pepe Mel as the best performance and most important result of his troubled Albion reign came with his team at their lowest ebb.

What the long-term future holds for this likeable Spaniard remains the most thorny question for an inevitably turbulent summer at The Hawthorns.

But for now, Mel can finally bask in the glory of a convincing victory and one that

Football

gave the Baggies and their supporters fresh hope that this most horrific of seasons can end in relief instead of despair.

For the first time in his 11 games in charge, Mel saw his team dominate a match throughout and claim the three points they so richly deserved. And the Baggies did it by ripping a page straight from the Roy Hodgson playbook.

There was precious little evidence of the high-pressing, high-risk football that the

former Real Betis man espoused when he walked into The Hawthorns.

Instead there was an industrious, intelligent and, above all, organised display from a team that just seven days earlier had looked ragged and ill-disciplined as they twice failed to cash in on winning positions against The Bluebirds.

Yes, they pressurised the Canaries and refused to let them play with a level of aggression and purpose they have failed to show over 90 minutes for several months. But they did it from the platform of shape, structure and discipline that Hodgson

worked so hard to implement and that Steve Clarke attempted, with mixed success, to build on. It was on 16 minutes that Amalfitano struck what would turn out to be the decisive blow.

Perhaps Mel has been persuaded by the impassioned case of the senior players that it was the only recipe for success with the current squad and tinkered with his own game plan. Maybe the Spaniard took a back seat and allowed Keith Downing and Dean Kiely a greater role in organising the team. Or maybe his players simply took the onus on themselves. In any case, it worked.

Tipton throw away lead to suffer loss

Tipton Town 2 Shepshed Dynamo 5

TIPTON Town suffered an almost-mirror repeat of the nightmare against Gornal from 48 hours earlier as they took a two-goal lead only to concede four second-half goals.

Tipton's was an unusual line-up with Lee Wherton in an unfamiliar left-back position and with Nigel Penney restored to the forward line against Dynamo, who were making their first visit to Tipton.

And it was Penney who was fouled to give Tipton the lead, the striker was brought down in the box on 16 minutes, this gave Danny Ashton the opportunity to smash home the spot-kick and he took it.

Five minutes later Callum Martin's header crashed on to the crossbar but Marvin Nisbett was unable to latch onto the rebound to make any difference to the score.

But on 25 minutes Town took a 2-0 lead after Martin was fouled on the edge of the area and Ashton's free-kick was spilled by keeper Ryan Thacker, only for Andy Dicken to pop up to bundle home his first goal for Tipton.

On 35 minutes, James Pemberton pulled off a great save to deny Jonathan Jones who had raced clear through.

And with four minutes left on the clock in the first half, Alun Webb pulled one back for the visitors with a clever, curling effort from 20 yards that looped over Pemberton.

The second half saw Town capitulate in much the same way they had at Garden Walk with the warning signs there for all to see

Football

on 57 minutes when Pemberton had to act to deny Calum Thompson.

The equaliser came on the hour when Rob Mulonga's cross from deep on the right looped over Pemberton's head - again - and into the net.

On 65 minutes Lee Wherton was forced to clear off the line after Connor Gater air-kicked a clearance in the six-yard box.

But the whole affair began to unravel on 73 minutes when Pemberton saved a free kick by Jonathan Jones only for another free kick to be given when the clearance was adjudged to have been handled by Martin.

This time Thompson made no mistake and with painful inevitability fired Shepshed into the lead from the edge of the box and the downhill slide had begun.

Town fell to pieces from here on in, first allowing Cooper-Richards to score unmarked and then a slapstick moment saw substitute Chris Waterhouse allow himself to be robbed and Jones had all the time in the world to fire past Pemberton and wrap up a 5-2 win for the Leicestershire side.

Leon gets guard of honour at testimonial



Leon Broadhurst gets a guard of honour with a little help from his young daughter Pia. Picture Will Kilpatrick

**Stourbridge Legends 4
Stourbridge All Stars 2**

SUNDAY'S testimonial match for Leon Broadhurst saw more £1,000 raised for the Chadsgrove Sports and Specialist College.

Stourbridge players past and present came together to mark the versatile player's 10 years with the club.

Adam Bastable's Stourbridge Legends defeated Gary Hackett's Stourbridge All-Stars 4 - 2, coming

from two down to claim the bragging rights.

Leon's brother Nathan Broadhurst and former Albion favourite Bob Taylor were amongst those to get on the score-sheet.

However, the goal of the afternoon came late on in the testimonial game from teenager Louis Clifton, with the substitute beating stand-in keeper Jon Ford from 35 yards to sew up the win for the Legends.

Stourbridge benefited from several results from around the league at the weekend, with only Hungerford Town of those teams immediately around them in the table winning. They came from a goal down at half time to beat Weymouth 2-1 at home.

Poole Town and Cambridge City both lost, Poole falling to defeat for the third time in four games as AFC Totton completed a 3-1 triumph at Testwood.

Losing margin lessens for DK

**Dudley Kingswinford 14
Sedgley Park 48**

ANOTHER fruitless return for an afternoon's hard endeavour as DK suffered another defeat at the hands of a powerful Sedgley Park side.

But this was in rugby terms an immense turnaround in favour of the home side as it was a little over four months ago that Park inflicted DK's heaviest-ever league defeat.

This time DK were 63 points better off than on that dark December afternoon in North Manchester.

After just a few minutes, Park launched an innocuous looking first attack of the game that looked like it was taking place in slow motion.

They kicked through and everyone appeared to watch as the ball bobbed over the DK line alert visitors' full back Andrew Riley pounced to open the scoring.

This was followed by a second try after 15 minutes when Park's busy left wing El Mhadi Tahir scored an excellent solo try, which fly half Steve Collins converted. Shortly after, Dudley's cause was dealt a game-changing blow when their first lost skipper Ed Parry to the bin followed by fellow lock Nick Murphy.

Lawley's hat-trick for victory

**Coventry Sphinx 1
AFC Wulfrunians 3**

AN excellent hat-trick from Brad Lawley ensured AFC Wulfrunians came away with all three points from a gritty encounter away at Coventry Sphinx. He fired two in the first half, before rounding off the win with a third shortly after Matty Fowler had pulled one back for the hosts.

Lawley put the visitors ahead after just eight minutes, before quick thinking by Scott Stevenson led to Wulfs' lead being doubled. He caught the defence off-guard with a quick free kick and Lawley fired it low, past O'Neil.

Thirteen minutes after Sphinx's goal Lawley completed his hat-trick.

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Yeltz stay in prime spot with one point

Mickleover 2 Halesowen 4
HALESOWEN stayed one point clear of Leek at the top of the Evo-Stik Division One South table after an excellent win at play-off chasing Mickleover.

The title race is shaping up for a thrilling end to the season and it was vital the Yeltz won this game against a team who had only lost one game in 14.

Mickleover claimed an early lead when captain Liam Walsh nodded home from a corner on 10 minutes.

But Halesowen equalised on 27 minutes as Joe Hull's cracking volley hit the underside of the bar and bounced into the net.

Two minutes later, Hull flicked the ball over Sports goalkeeper Chris Martin and Iyseden Christie was able to poke it home from point blank range.

Mickleover instantly replied through Simon Oshobo, powerfully header. But an entertaining first half ended when a mistake from the Mickleover defence gave Ben Haseley the opportunity to turn and score.

Haseley made it 4-2 on 60 minutes when he found space and slotted home from 10 yards and Halesowen took control.

Mickleover's Marc Goodfellow was sent off for a second bookable offence.

Ladies can't pull off win

Sheffield FC Ladies 3 Wolves Women 0

WOLVES Women battled bravely against league leaders Sheffield, but ultimately fell short as they continue to try and avoid being relegated.

Sheffield broke the deadlock on 36 minutes when Ellie Gilliatt raced down the left, before rifling in what proved to be an unstoppable shot.

Although Wolves were competing and battling hard, they never looked like scoring, and two late goals for Sheffield wrapped up the game once and for all.

The first came from a cross which was headed in by Leanne De Silva, before Issy Hayes tapped in from close range in injury time.

Sheffield deserved the win. Manager Trevor Mullings said: "We competed with them for large parts of the game."

Hales show strength in penultimate game

Longton 15 Old Halesonians 31
OLD Hales 1sts travelled to Staffordshire to meet Longton in the penultimate game of the season.

From the kick off, Hales got into their game with some up-front, physical confrontation led by Jordan, Tom Dempsey, Pete Fitzgerald and Rich Sawyer. After 32 minutes Hales worked a couple of phases up the field with strong running by Dempsey and Breese, a ruck secured the ball. Scrum half, Nathan Jones, again having a great game, fed Powell and the backs. Full back Chris Hooper joined the line, collected the ball,

Rugby
sold a class dummy to wrong foot the defence for the first try.

The home side came back down the slope using their big forwards. A driving maul from a lineup was again well defended by Hales. But Longton had more men in the maul and drove their prop over for a try to level the scores.

Another maul ensued with Rich Sawyer feeding Nathan Jones who sprinted to the line for a try wide out at half time.

Hales needed to maintain the pressure

down the slope, the first half defensive effort was a deciding factor in this game. On 46 minutes Longton attacked the midfield, Jordan put in a telling tackle on his opposite man. At the same time he wrestled the ball from the player.

Nathan Jones fed wing Luke Smith who chipped over his opposite man, collected the ball to pass inside to the supporting Loz Breese who evaded tackles to score the try of the game which was converted by Powell.

After the restart Luke Smith intercepted as loose ball to sprint half the pitch for another converted try and gained the bonus

point. More pressure by the visitors, a scrum on the Longton 22, a planned move including back row and backs failed to work.

Hales gathered again, Jones at scrum half took the ball and sold a dummy to skip over the line for his second try, converted by Powell.

With 20 minutes to go Longton fought back with two unconverted tries but Hales had done their job. This puts Hales third in the league. This Saturday Hales play their final game of the season at home against Lymm kick off 3pm.

Saxons do things hard way

Hull RUFC 29 Stourbridge Saxons 38
THE Saxons did it the hard way against a spirited Hull side who threatened to produce a shock result until nerves were settled by a late Stef Shillingford try.

With the National 2 North title contest no closer to being decided after last weekend's results they now look forward to their last home regular season game, hosting relegated neighbours Bromsgrove.

Having raced into a 26-5 lead with the bonus point secured the visitors eased off, perhaps still feeling the effects of their exertions the previous week.

An early Pete White-tapped penalty in Hull's 22 was worked to captain Robbie Hurrell who shrugged off some ineffective tackling to score under the posts.

Hull attempted to run their next possession but a loose pass was hacked downfield by fellow second rower Nile Dacres who won the footrace to ground the ball for a try.

The second half started with White in for his second try. Hull's Alex Piercy was next to score with Shillingford adding the last.

No let up vow from Jacobs

MICHAEL JACOBS has vowed Wolves won't allow complacency to stop them taking the final steps to promotion.

Whatever happens, Jacobs stressed Wolves won't let up in their quest.

"It won't come into this dressing room," he insisted. "We set our own standards."

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, April 10

CHAOTIC END TO SEASON FOR TIVS

Tivdale 2 Sphinx 2
IN a chaotic end to the season Tivdale welcomed Coventry Sphinx to The Beeches for their second game in less than 48 hours and shared the honours thanks to a late goal.

With Tivdale trying to give players as much

Football
rest as possible in an effort to nurse them over the finishing line a fifth-minute injury was the last thing they needed.

Defenders Mitchell Plows and Luke Paskin clashed heads and though Paskin was able to resume, Plows suffered mild concussion and a cut and was replaced by Zac Foster.

The first chance fell to Tivdale on 11 minutes when Andy Parsons latched on to a loose ball but his shot cleared the bar.

Excellent

Tivdale were turning up the pressure on Sphinx and on 18 minutes Sam Williams hit a fierce shot that looked destined for the top corner until Sphinx keeper Jack Farthing produced an excellent save to palm it away at full stretch.

Against the run of play and with their first effort on goal, Sphinx took the lead on 24 minutes. A long ball over the top fell between Tivdale defenders Parsons and Mark Smith and Sphinx's Luke Downes laid it back to Luke Williams, whose shot was just powerful enough to go in despite

Tivdale keeper Tim Beech getting his hand to it.

Helped by the home side's inability to hold onto the ball for any length of time, Sphinx were now the dominant side and Downes had the chance to double the score but Beech turned his shot around the post.

Right on the stroke of half-time came a stroke of pure magic. Tivdale wide man Michael Wardle looked up from a wide right position and 25 yards out spotted Farthing off his line and hit a fierce dipping shot that left the keeper back pedalling but with no chance of stopping it.

In the second half Tivdale's Jason Chilton had the first decent chance that flashed across the face of the goal after some good work from Karl Edwards.

Sphinx regained the lead on 69 minutes when a long free kick was spilt by Beech and Sphinx substitute Ricky Cutting to poked home from close range. Just as it seemed time was running out for Tivdale and the 90 minutes were up Williams meta cross with a peach of a diving header.

Heathens run riot and storm to victory



Steve Worrall, Kyle Hughes and Danny Phillips caught up in the crash.

Picture John Hipkiss

BRILLIANT Cradley ran riot as they stormed to a comprehensive 69-23 victory over King's Lynn at Monmore Green.

An outstanding all-around team display saw the Heathens equal their club record win, achieved against Buxton back in 2012, writes Rich Jones.

Having edged to a narrow win over Coventry in their opening meeting seven days ago, the new-look Cradley

side were in complete control of this National Shield tie.

It was Perry and Rose who provided the race of the night, with Rose spectacularly holding off the Heathens man in the battle for second place to deny him a paid maximum in heat 15.

While Perry fell short of a maximum at the final hurdle, Clegg was able to join Worrall in going unbeaten. Youngster Nathan Greaves

also proved the star man for the Heathens with two confidence-boosting race wins.

CRADLEY 69: Steve Worrall 15, Tom Perry 12+1, Max Clegg 9+3, Matt Williamson 9+1, Nathan Greaves 9, Paul Starke 8+3, Danny Phillips 7+4.

KING'S LYNN 23: Lewis Rose 8, Darren Mallett 5, Kyle Hughes 4, James Cogle 3, Josh Bailey 2, Scott Campos 0, Darryl Ritchings R/R.

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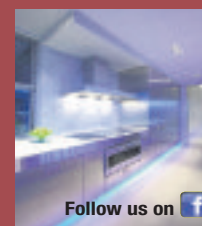
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